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**ECOSYSTEMS IMPROVED FOR
SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES
(ECOFISH) PROJECT**

ECOSYSTEMS IMPROVED FOR SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES (ECOFISH) Project

ANNUAL REPORT – YEAR 3 (01 OCTOBER 2014 – 30 SEPTEMBER 2015)

ECOFISH Document No.: 05/2015

Version: Final

Implemented with:

Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
National Government Agencies
Local Government Units
Assisting Organizations

Supported by:

United States Agency for International Development
Contract No.: AID-492-C-12-00008

Managed by:

Tetra Tech ARD

12 November 2015

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

700DALOY	-	700 Dedicated Alert Lines for Ocean Biodiversity
ADSDPP	-	Ancestral Domain Sustainable Development Protection Plan
AIM	-	Asian Institute of Management
AMPA	-	Adopt a Marine Protected Area Project
ARMM	-	Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao
ATFI	-	Alter Trade Foundation, Inc.
BFAR	-	Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
BoatR	-	National Municipal Fishing Boat Registration System
BuB	-	Bottom-up-Budgeting
C3	-	Community Centered Conservation
CADT	-	Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title
CAMASS	-	Cabangahan Mangingisda Association
CBA	-	Cost Benefit Analysis
CBLA	-	Cash for Building Livelihood Assets
CBMRS	-	Campomanes-Ballo Marine Reserve and Sanctuary
CCA	-	Climate Change Adaptation
CCCNI	-	Calamianes Conservation and Cultural Networks Inc.
CCEF	-	Coastal Conservation Education Foundation
CCT	-	Conditional Cash Transfer
CFLET	-	City Fisheries Law Enforcement Team
CFRM	-	Coastal and Fisheries Resources Management
CFV	-	Commercial Fishing Vessel
CFVR	-	Commercial Fishing Vessel Registration
CI	-	Conservation International
CIG	-	Calamianes Island Group
CLEC	-	Coastal Law Enforcement Council
CLET	-	Coastal Law Enforcement Team
CLUP	-	Comprehensive Land Use Plan
CLWUP	-	Comprehensive Land and Water Use Plan
CMN	-	Calamianes MPA Network
COMPETE	-	Advancing Philippine Competitiveness Project
COP	-	Chief of Party
COR	-	Contracting Officer's Representative
CRM	-	Coastal Resources Management
CSO	-	Civil Society Organization
CTI	-	Coral Triangle Initiative
CVA	-	Coastal Vulnerability Assessment
DA	-	Department of Agriculture
DAP	-	Development Academy of the Philippines
DBM	-	Department of Budget and Management
DCOP	-	Deputy Chief of Party
DDBRMC	-	Danajon Double Barrier Reef Management Council
DENR	-	Department of Environment and Natural Resources
DILG	-	Department of Interior and Local Government

DOF	-	Department of Finance
DOST	-	Department of Science and Technology
DSWD	-	Department of Social Work and Development
EAFM	-	Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management
ECOFISH	-	Ecosystems Improved for Sustainable Fisheries
ELAC	-	Environmental Legal Assistance Center
ENRD	-	Environment and Natural Resources Department
EO	-	Executive Order
EU	-	European Union
EwE	-	Ecopath with Ecosim
FARMC	-	Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council
FGD	-	Focus Group Discussion
FIMS	-	Fisheries Information System
FISH	-	Fisheries Improved for Sustainable Harvest Project
FishR	-	National Program for Municipal Fisherfolk Registration
FLE	-	Fisheries Law Enforcement
FRM	-	Fisheries Resources Management
GPBP	-	Grassroots Participatory Budgeting Process
GPH	-	Government of the Philippines
HIPADA	-	Hinatuan Passage Development Alliance
ICTO	-	Information and Communication Office
IEC	-	Information, Education and Communication
IFRM	-	Integrated Fishery Resource Management
IMC	-	Information Management System
IR		Intermediate Result
IRR	-	Implementing Rules and Regulations
IUUF	-	Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing
JWMRS	-	Julien's Wreck Marine Reserve and Sanctuary
KALIPI	-	Kalipunan ng Liping Pilipina
LCE	-	Local Chief Executive
LCP	-	League of Cities of the Philippines
LGPMS	-	Local Governance Performance Management System
LGU	-	Local Government Unit
LMP	-	League of Municipalities of the Philippines
LOP	-	Life of Project
LPRAT	-	Local Poverty Reduction Action Team
MAO	-	Municipal Agriculture Officer
MARINA	-	Maritime Industry Development Authority
MARPSTA	-	Maritime Police Station
MDRRMC	-	Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council
MEAT	-	Management Effectiveness Assessment Tool
MERF	-	Marine Environment Resources Foundation, Inc.
MFI	-	Malampaya Foundation Incorporated
MKBA	-	Marine Key Biodiversity Area
MMRS	-	Maasin Marine Reserve and Sanctuary
MOA	-	Memorandum of Agreement

MOU	-	Memorandum of Understanding
MPA	-	Marine Protected Area
MSN	-	MPA Support Network
MSU	-	Mindanao State University
NAMRIA	-	National Mapping and Resource Information Authority
NAPC	-	National Anti-Poverty Commission
NCIP	-	National Commission on Indigenous Peoples
NEDA	-	National Economic and Development Authority
NFARMC	-	National Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council
NFI	-	National Fisheries Institute
NFR	-	NGOs for Fisheries Reform
NFRDI	-	National Fisheries Research and Development Institute
NGA	-	National Government Agencies
NGO	-	Non-Governmental Organization
NOAA	-	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NSAP	-	National Stock Assessment Program
NSO	-	National Statistics Office
OECC	-	Office of Energy, Environment and Climate Change
PACPI	-	Philippine Association of Crab Processors, Inc.
PAGE	-	Palawan Advocates for Good Governance and Empowerment
PAMB	-	Protected Area Management Board
PAO	-	Provincial Agriculture Officer
PCG	-	Philippine Coast Guard
PCRA	-	Participatory Coastal Resource Assessment
PCSD	-	Palawan Council for Sustainable Development
PCV	-	Peace Corps Volunteer
PEMO	-	Provincial Environment Management Officer
PES	-	Payment for Ecosystem Services
PFO	-	Provincial Fisheries Officer
PGENRO	-	Provincial Government Environment and Natural Resources Officer
PHILSSA	-	Partnership of Philippine Support Services Agencies Inc,
PNP-MG	-	Philippine National Police – Maritime Group
PO	-	People’s Organization
PPP	-	Public-Private Partnership
PPPI	-	Polymer Products Philippines, Inc.
PRRCFI	-	Philippine Reef and Rainforest Foundation, Inc.
QRT	-	Quick Response Team
RAT	-	Regional Assessment Team
REECS	-	Resources Environment and Economics Center for Studies, Inc.
RSBSA	-	Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture
RTD	-	Roundtable Discussion
SAF	-	Special Activities Fund
SB	-	Sangguniang Bayan
SCTR	-	State of the Coral Triangle Report
SEA	-	Sea and Earth Advocates
SEMFISH	-	Sustainable Enterprises for Municipal Fishing Communities of South

		Negros
SEP	-	Strategic Environmental Plan
SGIDS	-	Senior Governance and Institutional Development Specialist
SGLC	-	Seal of Good Local Governance
SIMRS	-	Sunken Island Marine Reserve and Sanctuary
SLP	-	Sustainable Livelihood Program
SMRR	-	State of the Marine Resources Report
SNCDMC	-	Southern Negros Coastal Development and Management Council
SPMPMC	-	Siete Pecados Marine Park Management Council
SUC	-	State Universities and Colleges
TK	-	Tanggol Kalikasan, Inc.
TTCIA	-	Tagbanua Tribes of Coron Island Association
TWG	-	Technical Working Group
ULAP	-	Union of Local Authorities in the Philippines
UPMSI	-	University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute
UPVFI	-	University of the Philippines in the Visayas Foundation, Inc.
USAID	-	United States Agency for International Development
US-DOI	-	United States Department of the Interior
VA	-	Vulnerability Assessment
VIP	-	Verde Island Passage
VMG	-	Vision, Mission and Goals
WTP	-	Willingness to Pay
WWF	-	World Wide Fund for Nature
ZSL	-	Zoological Society of London

1. Introduction

The technical assistance and services contract was awarded to Tetra Tech - ARD for the implementation of USAID/Philippines' Ecosystems Improved for Sustainable Fisheries (ECOFISH) Project in June 29, 2012, under contract number AID-492-C-12-00008. The main objective of the ECOFISH Project is to improve the management of important coastal and marine resources and associated ecosystems that support local economies. The ECOFISH Project is intended to foster fishing sector reforms through the application of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) in larger marine conservation areas and involving clusters of Local Government Units (LGUs). It will promote the growth and restore the profitability of fisheries through conservation of ecosystem health and effective management.

The ECOFISH Project is in line with the current U.S. Country Assistance Strategy with respect to assistance directed at reducing threats to biodiversity and improving natural resources and environment. The ECOFISH Project is expected to contribute to achieving "Development Objective 3: Environmental Resilience Improved," particularly "IR3.2 Natural Resources and Environmental Management Improved" of the results framework of USAID/Philippine Mission's Country Development Cooperation Strategy (2012-2016). The Project is also designed to contribute to priority goals and actions laid out in the Philippine Development Plan (2011-2016) particularly Chapter 4 (Competitive and Sustainable Agriculture and Fisheries), and Chapter 10 (Protection, Conservation and Rehabilitation of Environment and Natural Resources). This five-year project will provide technical assistance to the Government of the Philippines (GPH), through the Department of Agriculture – Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA-BFAR) and implemented in partnership with selected LGUs.

This Year 3 Annual Report documents the activities and interventions during the four quarters of ECOFISH project implementation covering the period 01 October 2014 to 30 September 2015. It likewise describes the focus of the Project for the third year of implementation.

2. Project Objectives

The main objective of the ECOFISH Project is to improve the management of important coastal and marine resources and associated ecosystems that support local economies. It will conserve biological diversity, enhance ecosystem productivity and restore profitability of fisheries in eight marine key biodiversity areas (MKBA) using ecosystem approaches to fisheries management (EAFM) as a cornerstone of improved social, economic and environmental benefits.

The ECOFISH Project is designed to make an impact on eight MKBAs in the country (Figure 1), namely: (1) the Calamianes Group of Islands MKBA, (2) Lingayen Gulf MKBA, (3) Ticao Pass - Lagonoy Gulf - San Bernardino MKBA, (4) Danajon Reef MKBA, (5) South Negros MKBA, (6) Surigao del Sur and Surigao del Norte MKBA, (7) Sulu Archipelago MKBA, and (8) Verde Island Passage MKBA. They represent all six marine bio-regions of the Philippines and were

selected due to their extremely high need for marine biodiversity conservation. These areas are marine ecosystem “hotspots” in the Philippines that mirror the common issues impacting capture fisheries locally and nationally, namely:

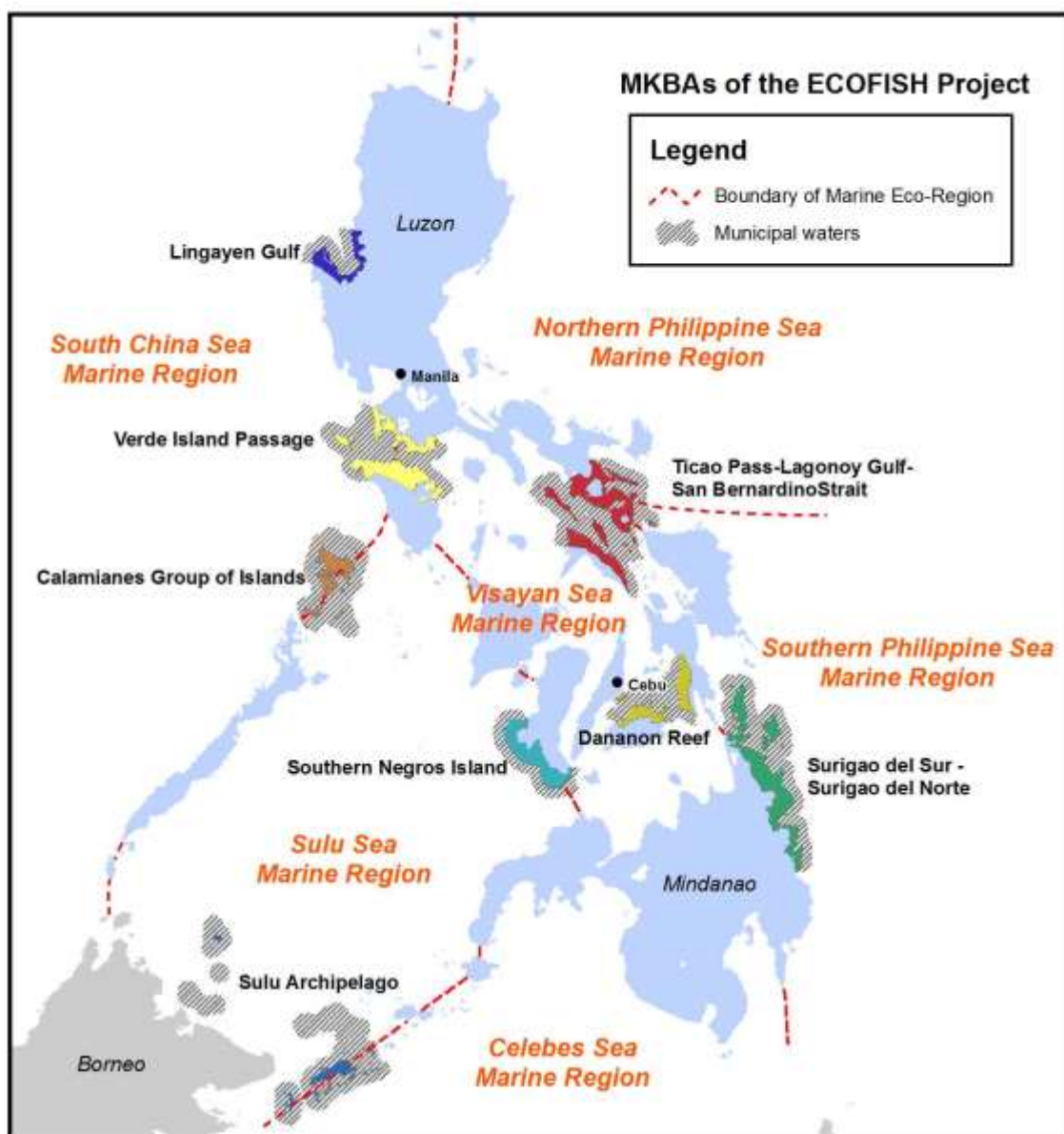
- loss of marine biodiversity;
- declining fish stocks;
- high population growth;
- limited private sector investment;
- inconsistent policies and programs for sustainable fisheries; and
- weak institutional and stakeholder capacity to plan and implement fisheries management.

Although majority of project activities will cut across these eight MKBAs, implementation strategies, focus, priorities, and level of engagements may differ from place to place mainly because each MKBA has unique ecosystem features, opportunities, and threats. Table 1 shows the general ecosystem features, opportunities and threats in the eight MKBAs.

At the end of five years, the 13 ECOFISH project deliverables (see Table 2) are expected to lead to the following key results:

- (A) An average of 10% increase in fisheries biomass across the eight MKBAs;
- (B) A 10% increase in the number of people gaining employment or better employment from sustainable fisheries management from a baseline established at the start of the Project;
- (C) Establishment of a national capacity development program to enhance the capacities of LGUs and relevant national agencies to apply ecosystem-based approaches to fisheries management;
- (D) Eight public-private partnerships supporting the objectives of the ECOFISH Project created and operating;
- (E) One million hectares of municipal marine waters under improved management; and
- (F) A core of 30 LGUs across the eight MKBAs with improved capacity for implementing ecosystem approaches to fisheries management.

Table 2 presents the main relationship between the 13 deliverables and the six key results. Deliverables leading to Results C and D build the foundation for project activities. Those for Results E and F drive the implementation at the MKBA level, and taken together they attain the overall ECOFISH Results A and B.



Quick summary of ECOFISH MKBAs

MKBA	ECOFISH Partner LGUs		ECOFISH Focal LGUs	
	n	Area of Municipal Waters (sq km)	n	Area of Municipal Waters (sq km)
Lingayen Gulf	17	2,934.6	8	1,150.1
Calamianes Group of Islands	4	10,377.8	4	10,377.8
Danajon Reef	20	4,912.7	13	2,863.3
South Negros Island	11	3,933.0	7	3,298.7
Sulu Archipelago	11	19,354.1	6	5,825.2
Surigao del Sur/del Norte	39	11,052.1	6	1,066.6
Verde Island Passage	26	9,031.7	9	1,559.7
Ticao Pass - Lagonoy Gulf - San Bernardino Strait	42	13,548.5	10	3,203.9

Figure 1. Map of the Eight Marine Key Biodiversity Areas (MKBAs) of ECOFISH

Table 1. Summary of Ecosystem Features, Opportunities and Threats in the Eight MKBAs

MKBA	Ecosystem Features	Opportunities	Threats
Calamianes Island Group	70 percent of the coral and seagrass species recorded in the Philippines	Take advantage of focus on MPA management to support ecotourism and economic alternatives; collaborate and leverage work at CTI demonstration site.	Destructive fishing and uncontrolled live fish trade; one weak LGU reduces impact of inter-LGU alliance activities.
Danajon Reef	One of only three double barrier reefs in the Indo-Pacific region	Take advantage of strong provincial and municipal buy-in of CRM programs to further EAFM goals. Strong LGU alliances.	High fish demand lead to high fishing pressure and illegal fishing.
Lingayen Gulf	Extensive coral reef, seagrass, and soft bottom community supporting the rich fishing ground	Ability to identify specific protection and management interventions from long-term fisheries data sets; leverage high awareness due to past environmental programs to implement EAFM activities.	Severe overfishing and poor water quality in mariculture areas resulting in fish kills; lack of inter-LGU alliances.
Ticao Pass - Lagonoy Gulf - San Bernardino	Diverse small pelagic resources; important habitat for dolphins, dugongs, and whale sharks	Utilize long-term data for Lagonoy Gulf and Sorsogon Bay to identify specific interventions; take advantage of active university involvement to participate in project activities and development of employment from growing marine ecotourism sector.	Steep declines in fish stocks; encroachment of commercial vessels; complex marine ecosystem; lack of inter-LGU alliances.
South Negros Island	Deep water harbors; large and small pelagic fishes	Begin to formalize and develop EAFM activities by building on long history of community-based marine protected areas.	No comprehensive assessment of capture fisheries; lack of inter-LGU alliances.
Sulu Archipelago	Rich ecosystem with massive network of coral reefs, seagrass beds and mangroves	Collaborate and leverage work at CTI demonstration site; begin the capacity building by capitalizing on increasing awareness on coastal and fisheries resource management.	Still weak management and law enforcement and lack of formal inter-LGU alliance agreements; unsustained support from some local governments.
Surigao del Sur and Surigao del Norte	Extensive deep water and shallow water coral reef, seagrass and soft bottom resources	Take advantage of strong inter-LGU alliances to leverage and increase fisheries interventions.	Upland erosion and siltation from mine tailings of nearshore impacting habitats.
Verde Island Passage	Considered the ‘center of the center’ of the world’s fish diversity	Long-term marine conservation initiatives by NGOs; CTI demonstration site.	Encroachment of commercial vessels, use of cyanide in aquarium fish collection.

Table 2. Main Relationship between Project Deliverables and Key Results

Tasks	Deliverables	Results	
		<p>Result A. An average of 10% increase in fisheries biomass across the eight MKBAs.</p> <p>Result B. A 10% increase in the number of people gaining employment or better employment from sustainable fisheries management from a baseline established at the start of the Project</p>	Final Outcomes
<p>Task 1. Establish and Implement a National Training Program</p> <p>Task 2. Provide Technical and Advisory Support at the National Level</p> <p>Task 3. Create Public-Private Partnerships</p>	<p>Deliverable 1. Policy Studies on EAFM, MPA, and Climate Change</p> <p>Deliverable 2: Toolkits, Sourcebooks, and Case Studies on EAFM, MPA, and Climate Change</p> <p>Deliverable 3: A National Database on EAFM Established Using the Annual Monitoring Data in the 8 MKBAs</p> <p>Deliverable 4: State of the Marine Resources Report</p> <p>Deliverable 5: National, Regional and Municipal EAFM Trainings Conducted</p> <p>Deliverable 6: Public-Private Partnerships Supporting ECOFISH Objectives Established</p>	<p>Result C. Establishment of a national capacity development program to enhance the capacities of LGUs and relevant national agencies to apply ecosystem-based approaches to fisheries management.</p> <p>Result D. Eight public-private partnerships supporting the objectives of the ECOFISH Project created and operating</p>	Build Foundation
<p>Task 4. Provide Technical and Advisory Support at the Local Level</p> <p>Task 5. Develop a Registry of Users of Municipal Fishing Waters</p> <p>Task 6. Identify and Implement Sustainable Financing Programs to Support EAFM Projects</p> <p>Task 7. Establish a Baseline on Coastal and Marine Resources and Relevant Socio-Economic Information, Develop and Apply Metrics on Monitoring EAFM Implementation in Target MKBAs</p>	<p>Deliverable 7: Bio-physical, Social and Economic Baseline Assessments of the 8 MKBAs</p> <p>Deliverable 8: Scientific Studies on Select MKBA- Specific Fish Species</p> <p>Deliverable 9: MPA Network Analyses in the 8 MKBAs</p> <p>Deliverable 10: Fisheries Management Plans of Select Inter-LGU Alliances in the 8 MKBAs</p> <p>Deliverable 11: Registry of Users of Municipal Fishing Waters Established in Select Municipal LGUs in the 8 MKBAs</p> <p>Deliverable 12: Revenue Generation System for Fisheries Management Established and Effectively Implemented in Select LGUs</p> <p>Deliverable 13: Sustainable Financing Programs for EAFM Implemented in Select LGUs in the 8 MKBAs</p>	<p>Result E. One million hectares of municipal marine waters under improved management.</p> <p>Result F. A core of 30 LGUs across the eight MKBAs with improved capacity for implementing ecosystem approaches to fisheries management.</p>	Implement Best Practices

3. General Work Plan Overview

Guided by the LOP Work Plan (ECOFISH Document No. 01/2013) and the Year 3 Annual Work Plan (ECOFISH Document No. 04/2014), this document describes the host of activities and interventions during the 4 quarters that cover Year 3 of ECOFISH implementation, from 01 October 2014 to 30 September 2015. Major thrusts for this period include the following:

- Focus on inter-LGU interventions on fisheries management;
- Policies to be crafted will mostly be in support of site-level fisheries management interventions;
- Continue to focus on interventions that will serve as building blocks as well as directly influence the achievement of the final outcomes of the Project;
- Use baseline assessment results as inputs to fisheries management and socioeconomic interventions;
- Establish and strengthen networks of MPAs;
- Establish boat and gear registration to complement FishR;
- Accelerate the establishment of community partnerships;
- Develop the Municipal Fisheries Management Start-Up Guide;
- Craft local policies in support of site-level fisheries management interventions;
- Focus on inter-LGU interventions on fisheries management;
- Work on market-based financing instruments;
- Develop institutional arrangements with stakeholder groups in each MKBA;
- Roll out national and local constituency building initiatives; and
- Integrate communication strategies into key interventions and expected results for sharing with a bigger and broader audience.

During the ECOFISH 2014 annual planning exercise, the project team decided to place priority on setting in place interventions that will serve as building blocks for, as well as directly influence the achievement of, the final outcomes of the Project. These are activities that will lead to increase in fisheries biomass and increase in the number of people gaining employment or better employment from sustainable fisheries management. This is over and above the regular activities and deliverables already planned for Year 3 in the Life of Project Work Plan (LOP). This means putting some activities upfront, mainly those that can contribute to achieving the final ECOFISH outcomes.

Figure 2 summarizes the general calendar of ECOFISH activities and interventions for the life of project showing a higher time resolution during the third year of project implementation. These activities and interventions are planned to culminate during specific periods and their scheduled year of completion are described in the LOP Work Plan. As indicated in the figure, most activities running through Year 3 have started before or at the onset of Year 3. Note that these activities and interventions are planned to culminate during specific periods beyond the current report coverage, as described in the Life of Project Work Plan.

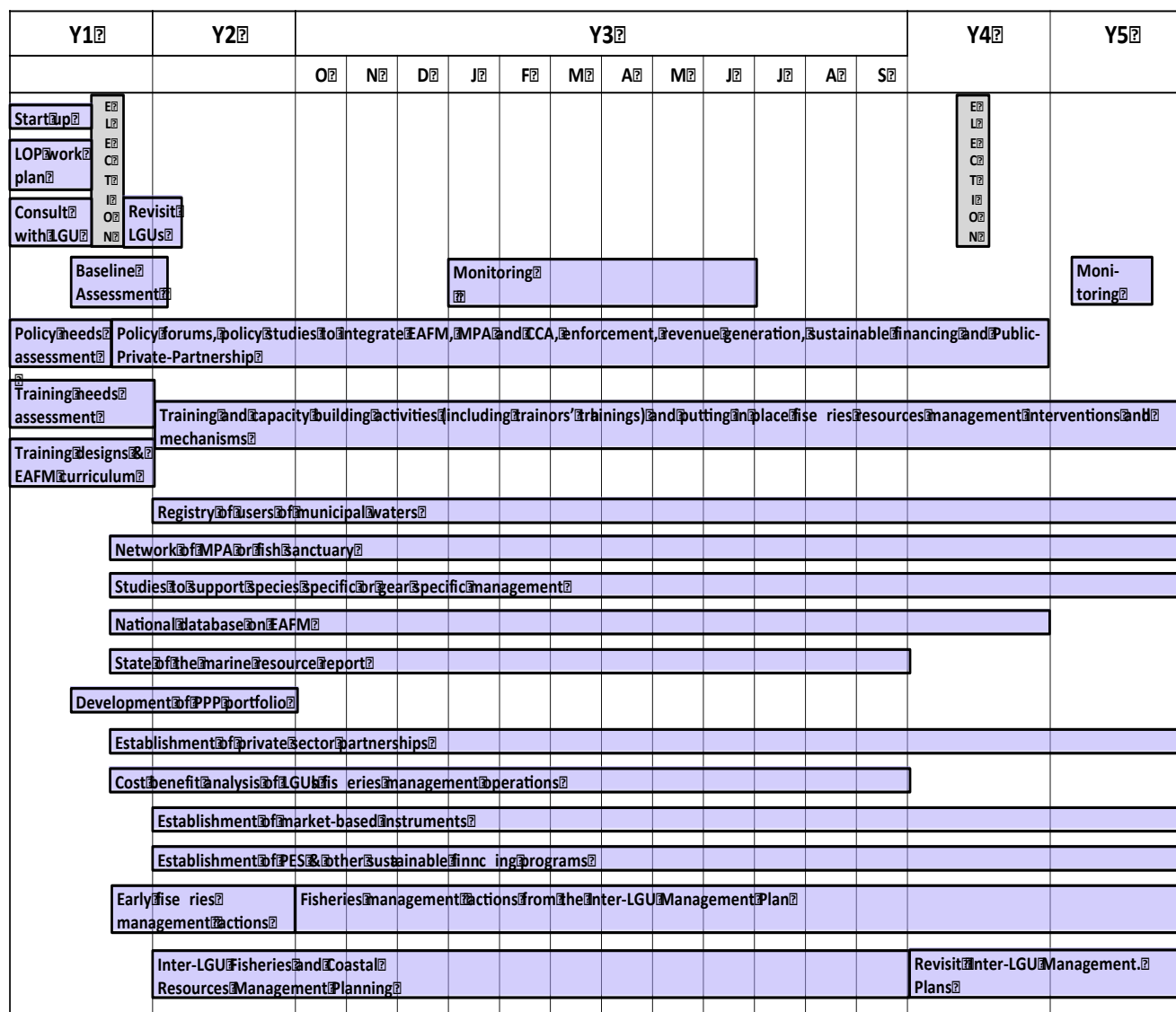


Figure 2. General Calendar of ECOFISH Activities and Interventions Highlighting Year 3 Activities and Period Covered by the Year 3 Report

4. Year 3 Accomplishments

Descriptions of the key activities/interventions under each of the 13 deliverables during the Year 3 of ECOFISH implementation are given below.

4.1. Deliverable 1: Policy Studies on EAFM, MPA and Climate Change

The focus of ECOFISH policy assistance in Year 2 was to facilitate the preparation and approval of national policies that will enable better field implementation of EAFM. The Project continued to monitor progress of implementation of the national programs that ECOFISH supported, including FishR, 700DALOY and AMPA. In Year 3, ECOFISH continued to support national policy formulation to further strengthen the foundations for EAFM. In particular, ECOFISH supported the national program for municipal fishing vessel and fishing gear registration (BoatR) to complement the program of fisherfolk registration (FishR). This will complete the database needed to enable design of fishing effort management interventions. The Project also supported BFAR policy/regulatory initiatives to address IUU fishing, particularly in preparing portions of the implementing rules and regulations of R.A. 10654. Finally, to further enhance the various site-specific closed seasons currently being implemented, ECOFISH provided support to BFAR on a closed season for roundscads in Palawan, and the extension/expansion of the LGU-led closed season in Batangas.

ECOFISH also provided facilitation and technical support for NFRDI in the review and updating of the Philippine Fisheries Research Agenda. The project, together with key researchers and personnel of BFAR and NFRDI, conducted a national consultation process to capture the research needs of the various fisheries sectors. In addition to national policy assistance, the Project focused on a number of policies at the municipal and MKBA levels, to complement the implementation of fisheries management interventions such as marine spatial planning, species- and gear-specific management and improved fisheries law enforcement.

The box below summarizes the status (O – ongoing; C – completed) of various interventions and activities under Deliverable 1.

Deliverable 1: Policy Studies on EAFM, MPA and Climate Change				
Project Intervention/Activity	2015			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Conduct studies on EAFM policies and policy implementation in providing an enabling environment for EAFM				
Support for national policies: Possible topics: NAPC/BFAR fish landing sites identification; Boat-R, following EO 305; fish examiners training/certification program; amendment to FAO 246 (hulbot-hulbot); policy for seasonal closures nationwide; Support for US EO in wildlife trafficking; PH EO on IUUF	O	O	O	C
Support for preparation of local policies, as needed	O	O	O	C
Conduct policy forums with relevant stakeholder groups				
National forum on climate change/ENSO impact on fisheries and coastal	O	O	O	O

resources				
Regional forum on seasonal closure of small pelagics in VIP	O	O	O	C
Conduct policy studies to integrate CTI themes, (EAFM, MPAs, and CCA) into existing policy instruments				
Study on seasonal closure for small pelagics in VIP: governance, socio-economic and biological aspects.	O	O	O	C
Conduct policy studies on revenue generation, sustainable financing, and PPPs to support sustainable fisheries management				
NAPC poverty reduction program for fisherfolk	O	O	O	O
Team Lead: Senior Governance and Institutional Development Specialist, Chief of Party Key Partners: BFAR, DA, DENR, DILG, NEDA, DTI, DOF, DOJ, DBM, LMP, NFR, NFARMC, commercial fishing sector				

Highlights of key activities/accomplishments under Deliverable 1 during the reporting period include:

- The policy assistance to BFAR on FishR has been very productive. FishR continues to be a banner program of BFAR. As of September 2015, FishR recorded more than 1.5 million fisherfolk registrants, or about three-quarters of the estimated number of fisherfolk nationwide.
- Overall, thirteen (13) ECOFISH partner LGUs were included in BFAR's Top 100 list of LGUs that were fastest to complete the registration of their fishers. In Bohol, where ECOFISH piloted the use of TVWS-enhanced fisherfolk registration, the Municipality of Carlos P. Garcia (CPG) ranked 24th in BFAR's national list (it ranked 2nd in Region 7). This is especially remarkable because the only available internet connection in CPG is through TVWS that DOST provided for free.
- The success of FishR motivated BFAR to launch in 2015 a complementary program on municipal fishing vessel and gear registration, called BoatR. The concept is parallel to FishR in that BFAR provides incentives to LGUs to comply with the legal mandate. BoatR is technically more complex than FishR, which is why BFAR decided to implement it separately, although BoatR uses the FishR database to link fishers to their boats and gear. ECOFISH provided assistance in designing the technical aspects of boat admeasurement (measuring the dimensions and capacity of the boat), including training of the BFAR trainers that will guide LGUs implement BoatR. BoatR is off to a good start, with registration picking up in September 2015.





- ECOFISH provided technical comments to the draft revisions to the Fisheries Code, which Congress eventually passed as Republic Act No. 10654. The project also provided support for the writing of the implementing rules and regulations, especially in relation to administrative adjudication procedures. The implementing rules and regulations were approved on Sept 23, 2015 as Department Administrative Order No. 10, series of 2015.
- The early exploratory discussions with DOJ, DTI, DBM on economic instruments/ policies related to fisheries did not progress because of there was less urgency. Instead, ECOFISH responded to the request of NAPC and BFAR to provide assistance in designing a program for alleviating poverty in the fisheries sector – identified as the poorest sector among the poor. ECOFISH provided support for refining the policy on the planned fish landing centers, to align with the goal of sustaining fisheries productivity while enhancing the economic opportunities of the municipal fisherfolk. The policy was oriented towards value-adding, enhancing community skills, increasing efficiency in fish landing operations rather than fishing effort.

Overall, at the end of Year3, ECOFISH completed:

Policy studies on EAFM policies and policy implementation in providing an enabling environment for EAFM	Instrument of adoption	Date adopted/ completed
1. National Program for Municipal Fishing Boat and Gear Registration (BoatR)	FOO 2014-290	Dec. 2014
2. Inputs to amendments to the Fisheries Code; implementing rules and regulations	R.A. No. 10654; DAO 10, s. 2015 (IRR)	Sept 23, 2015
Policy forums with relevant stakeholder groups		Date adopted/ completed

1. <i>Pagpapahinga ng Look ng Balayan</i> Seasonal closure for small pelagics, Forum series (VIP MKBA)	expanded coverage to include Balayan, Talim and Nasugbu Bays	continuing
Policy studies on revenue generation, sustainable financing, and PPPs to support sustainable fisheries management	Instrument of adoption	Date adopted/ completed
1. BFAR/NAPC Fish Landing Guidelines		Jan 2015

Unplanned activities:

None

Activities not accomplished and why:

None

Issues and concerns:

- There are a few policy areas where partner agencies have taken opposing sides, for example, promotion of certain fishing gear (payaw) for livelihood assistance.
- Another policy area where partner agencies have taken opposing sides is the jurisdiction over administrative adjudication. ECOFISH has been promoting LGU-based administrative adjudication, but the law amending the Fisheries Code now provides for adjudication by BFAR

Recommended courses of action:

- ECOFISH strived to provide a neutral ground for informed discussion, and provided technical expertise as needed.
- This issue on jurisdiction over administrative adjudication will hopefully be resolved by the implementing rules and regulations of the R.A 10654.

4.2. Deliverable 2: Toolkits, Sourcebooks and Case Studies on EAFM, MPA and Climate Change

In Year 2, ECOFISH made substantial progress in the preparation of the LGU Start-Up Guide, which is intended to be a user-friendly, informative and activity-oriented tool for LGUs that wish to implement EAFM. The Project also consolidated materials on fish examiners' training that will be used in the preparation of the Procedural Handbook and Video. In addition, ECOFISH was instrumental in designing and implementing the enhanced National Stock Assessment Program (NSAP) Training Program.

For Year 3, ECOFISH completed the core volume on the LGU Start-Up Guide, and continued to work on a separate volume of useful toolkits to guide the implementation of key activities in the Start-Up Guide. The Start-Up Guide targets LGUs that are only beginning to think about a

strategic and sustainable program for managing fisheries and coastal resources. It guides the LGU through ten (10) activities that leads to the preparation of a simple, doable action plan for sustainable municipal fisheries. After using the Start-Up Guide, the LGU should be ready for more advanced initiatives and to work with contiguous LGUs towards EAFM. Thus, the LGU that ‘graduates’ from the Start-Up Guide will move on to the EAFM Training Course together with the other LGUs in the MKBA.

A Procedural Handbook with accompanying instructional video on fish examination is still in process in Year 3. This will be the first time that a handbook and video will be produced with the BFAR after the introduction of the practice of scientific examination of fishes suspected to be caught by blast fishing will be produced. As expected, there have been very spirited discussions among experts that caused the delay in the completion of the products. ECOFISH is closely guided by the TWG created by BFAR in preparing the handbook and video. The TWG has scheduled further meetings in Year 4.

ECOFISH has started documenting case studies that showcase EAFM best practices in the project sites. The case studies will be developed initially by the Project site teams with assistance from thematic leads. However, in high-impact or novel case studies (such as the seasonal closure in Balayan Bay), the prepared a video documentation in lieu of a written case study.

The writing of the case studies will continue through Years 4 and 5, and will rely on the documentation of best practices and determination of impacts of the selected cases. At present, the proposed case studies include:

Case Studies Under Development
<p>Lingayen Gulf MKBA</p> <p>San Fernando City CFARMC Model - The City of San Fernando FARMC has received the Regional Gawad Saka Award in 2014 and exemplifies practices that may be emulated by other local FARMCS. With the coming re-organization of FARMCs into the Integrated Aquatic and Fisheries Management Councils, the CFARMC of San Fernando could highlight positive experiences for other municipalities to learn from. Of importance is the role of LGU support for local FARMCs.</p> <p>Contribution of Fisheries Law Enforcement to Tourism in Alaminos City - Fisheries law enforcement in Alaminos City has had constant support from the local government throughout the years. This experience could exemplify how resources spent for strengthening fisheries law enforcement can positively contribute not only to habitat protection and increase in fisheries biomass, but also to long-term benefits to income of local communities through tourism.</p>
<p>Calamianes Island Group MKBA</p> <p>Impact of post-Yolanda (Haiyan) Assistance to the Fisheries Sector – In the aftermath of the super-typhoon, BFAR and other groups provided boats and fishing gear to local fishers who have lost their means of livelihood. While the provision of fishing assets and facilities would address immediate livelihood needs, any placement of these physical resources must consider the pressure these could create on fishery resources and the long-term food security of fisherfolk. Additional assets and facilities may result to increased fishing activities that can further harm degraded and overfished stocks or critical marine habitats in CIG.</p> <p>Marine Spatial Planning for sustainable fisheries management - The experience of</p>

<p>Calamianes Island Group in using MSP as a tool in formulating the fisheries management strategies helped them plan on the use of marine space and the interactions between its uses, in order to balance demands for development with the need to protect marine ecosystems and to achieve social and economic objectives in an open and planned way. It can be replicated in other areas specially those areas that has boundary conflict issues.</p>
<p>Verde Island Passage MKBA LGU-led seasonal closure for small pelagics in Balayan Bay – the Provincial Government responded to the call of fishers to study and propose a closed season for commercially-important fish species in order to allow recovery of the dwindling stocks. The proposed seasonal closure was developed through a consultative process; expectation for voluntary compliance is high because of the livelihood assistance provided by DSWD to affected families. Batangas Environment Response Team (BERT): Strengthening Fishery and Environmental Law Enforcement - Batangas is part of the Verde Island Passage, an area with rich fishing grounds and eco-tourism attractions and which is recognized as the world’s “center of the center of marine shore fish biodiversity.” Illegal fishing, however, continue to be a problem in many of the municipalities. The formation of the provincial BDN as well as MPA networks facilitated cooperation and information exchange that improved efforts to apprehend and deter illegal fishers.</p>
<p>Ticao Pass - Lagonoy Gulf - San Bernardino MKBA Lawlaw fisheries (potential for closed season) - The spawning grounds of <i>lawlaw</i> (sardine) stocks caught in San Vicente and Bulan are in Albay area outside the MKBA - this will make an interesting story for a proposed closed season later because of the scale of the management intervention. Fishing down the food web in San Vicente and Capul - Over time, the dominant catch has changed from <i>galunggong</i> (roundscad) to <i>bolinao</i> (anchovy). The story could be about how the community is made aware of what this means, and what to do to avert overfishing.</p>
<p>Southern Negros MKBA Inter-LGU alliance on law enforcement for improved ecosystem based fisheries governance - In 2006, the 3rd Congressional District Coastal Law Enforcement Council (CLEC) was launched with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding. This district-wide enforcement council is a joint undertaking of the Municipalities of Siaton, Sta. Catalina, Bayawan City and Basay. They agreed to share their resources to promote programs geared towards conservation, protection and maintenance of marine ecosystem.</p>
<p>Surigao del Norte and del Sur MKBA Settlement of municipal water boundary disputes – facilitating the resolution of disputes through technical inputs and provision of ‘negotiating space.’</p>

The box below summarizes the status (O – ongoing; C – completed) of various interventions and activities under Deliverable 2.

Deliverable 2: Toolkits, Sourcebooks, and Case Studies on EAFM, MPA, and Climate Change				
Project Intervention/Activity	2015			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Review existing toolkits (Municipal Fisheries Management source book (Volume 1), and other guidance				

EAFM Start-up Guide for LGUs developed, published and launched.	O	O	O	C
Develop municipal fisheries management toolkit to complement Start-Up Guide.	O	O	O	O
Develop case studies on the integration of CTI themes (EAFM, MPAs, and CCA) at the site level				
Develop case studies on the integration of CTI themes on EAFM, MPAs, and climate change at the site level (target is 2 MKBAs).	O	O	O	O
Develop and produce Fishery Law Enforcement Procedural Handbook				
Develop the Fish Examiner's Training Manual.	O	O	O	O
Produce fishery law enforcement instructional video				
Develop the Fish Examiner's Training video.	O	O	O	O
Team Lead: IEC Specialist, Senior Fisheries and Coastal Resource Management Specialist, Regulation and Enforcement Specialist, and MERF Key Partners: BFAR, DILG, PNP, LMP, university network, NFR				

Highlights of key activities/accomplishments under Deliverable 3 during the reporting period include:

- The Start-up Guide for LGUs was supposed to be completed in Year 1. However, it took a year to sort out the differences and complementation between the Start-up Guide under Deliverable 2 and the EAFM Training Curriculum under Deliverable 5. After months of experimentation, observation and learning from the initial trainings conducted at the sites, it became clear that the two products had different but complementary purposes.
- The case studies development was delayed because ECOFISH wants to wait for start-up interventions in the MKBAs to show initial results. The case studies will follow the progress of these key learning interventions.
- ECOFISH submitted the draft of the Fish Examiner's Training Manual for discussion of the Technical Working Group and finalization of the flow and processes. The draft is currently being further refined for field-testing.

Unplanned activities:

None

Activities not accomplished and why:

None

Issues and concerns:

None

Recommended courses of action:

None

4.3. Deliverable 3: A National Database on EAFM Established Using the Annual Monitoring Data in the 8 MKBAs

The development of various protocols for data entry, retrieval, and analysis was completed in Year 2 and this incorporated the socioeconomic information into the database. The team has started development of routines for use by LGU personnel in accessing and processing data on registration and licensing. ECOFISH discussed with BFAR's Fisheries Information Management System (FIMS) team the compatibility issues of the FishR and the municipal fishing boat registration databases. The idea is to adapt to the national database system and not develop a project database system. The same will also apply in the case of the proposed national municipal fishing boat registration system (BoatR). In the subsequent years of project implementation, a database on EAFM should be able to integrate information from various fisheries management initiatives in the country and the consolidated information from the national EAFM database will likewise feed into the State of the Marine Resources Report (SMRR). The overall general principle being followed is for all project database to feed into the national database and that the Project should not create its own customized database.

The box below summarizes the status (O – ongoing; C – completed) of various interventions and activities under Deliverable 3.

Deliverable 3: A National Database on EAFM Established Using the Annual Monitoring Data in the 8 MKBAs				
Project Intervention/Activity	2015			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Develop national database				
Improve or revise routines for capture and retrieval of fisherfolk, fishing boat, and fishing gear registration and licensing to be compatible with BFAR-FIMC system.	C			
Develop protocol for data collection & entry in the national database				
Test the use of database system in selected focal areas of ECOFISH (particularly the former FISH Project sites).	O	O	O	O
Develop protocols for fish catch monitoring system to become part of the National Stock Assessment Program				
Present to NSAP the fisheries and socioeconomic baseline assessment results.	C			
Finalize agreement on sets of information to be uploaded for NSAP use.	O	O	O	O
Develop protocols for benchmarking local EAFM				
Incorporate the EAFM benchmarks into the database system.	O	O	O	O
Conduct training on the national database system				
Conduct training on the national EAFM database in at least MKBAs.	O	O	O	O
Team Lead: Senior Fisheries and Coastal Resource Management Specialist, GIS-KIM Specialist, Senior Resource Economics Specialist, Regulatory and Enforcement Specialist, MERF Key Partners: BFAR, DILG, LMP, DENR				

Highlights of key activities/accomplishments under Deliverable 3 during the reporting period include:

- Reviewed and finalized EAFM benchmarking system developed under the FISH Project
- Discussed with BFAR's Fisheries and Information Management System (FIMS) team the compatibility issues of the FishR and the municipal fishing boat registration databases.
- Preparation work with BFAR in support of its initiative to develop the national municipal fishing vessel registration system or BoatR.
- Instead of working with individual LGUs to develop and implement fisheries registries in the municipality, ECOFISH worked with BFAR to establish a national registration system (FishR). In addition, BFAR is also hosting the national FishR database and ECOFISH primarily provided technical and financial support in rolling out both the registration system in the project sites.
- ECOFISH likewise supported BFAR in developing the national registration of municipal fishing boats (BoatR). The project shared the design for boat and gear registration and licensing system developed under the FISH Project and initiated for application in selected ECOFISH sites. Similarly, BFAR is also hosting the national BoatR database and ECOFISH primarily provided technical and financial support in rolling out both the registration system in the project sites.

Unplanned activities:

None

Activities not accomplished and why:

- ECOFISH decided to defer a complementary effort to develop a separate boat and gear registration system for LGUs when BFAR planned to launch a boat and gear registration program, called BoatR, to complement FishR.
- Although ECOFISH has completed the improvement of routines for the capture and retrieval of fisherfolk, fishing boat, and fishing gear registration and licensing data, it can no longer be used since BFAR-FIMC system is now the official host of fisherfolk, municipal fishing boats and municipal fishing gears registration data. ECOFISH will just coordinate with BFAR-FIMC for integration of the project database into the BFAR FIMS and for the data access of LGUs in the project sites for use in their management planning and interventions.

Issues and concerns:

- LGUs access to the fishers, boats and gears national database will primarily rely on the BFAR-FIMC system. Information derived from them are key inputs to fisheries management planning and specific interventions.

Recommended courses of action:

- ECOFISH will assist the LGUs in accessing these information and support the development of a system to integrate these information with other relevant resource management data from the MKBA and individual LGUs in particular. The team will include data management training for LGUs as part of its interventions.

4.4. Deliverable 4: State of the Marine Resources Report

In Year 2 the ECOFISH, through MERF, started conducting review sessions and workshops with partners to draft various sections of the report with the goal of coming up with the first consolidated draft by Year 3. The team conducted a writeshop with partners from BFAR and LGUs, and agreed on the content and outline of the report. This writeshop also included a stock taking of site-level available information, sources of information, and agreed on strategies to access these information. In collaboration with NSAP, the ECOFISH team conducted a training of data analysts of NSAP to revisit and standardize procedures for estimation of fish population parameters and status of fish stocks. These sets of information already form part of the SMRR and are intended to be updated on a regular basis.

The box below summarizes the status (O – ongoing; C – completed) of various interventions and activities under Deliverable 4.

Deliverable 4: State of the Marine Resources Report				
Project Intervention/Activity	2015			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Conduct workshops and review sessions with partners to develop sections of the report				
Workshops, writeshops and review sessions with partners to draft various sections of the report.	O	O	C	
Prepare State of the Marine Resource Report				
Develop a working draft of the State of the Marine Resource Report.	O	O	O	C
Team Lead: Senior Fisheries and Coastal Resource Management Specialist, GIS-KIM Specialist, Senior Resource Economics Specialist, Regulatory and Enforcement Specialist, MERF Key Partners: BFAR, DENR, LMP, university network, WWF				

Highlights of key activities/accomplishments under Deliverable 4 during the reporting period include:

- ECOFISH team through MERF conducted a writeshop with partners from BFAR and LGUs to develop the expanded outline, content and scope of the SMRR.
- The ECOFISH served as resource persons for the 5-day training of data analysts of NSAP to revisit and standardize procedures for estimation of fish population parameters and status of fish stocks that will ultimately form part of the SMRR.

- Assisted the NSAP in the recalculation and refinement of estimates of fish population parameters and exploitation rates value and selection of keystone species to become part of the SMRR.

Unplanned activities:

None

Activities not accomplished and why:

None

Issues and concerns:

None

Recommended courses of action:

None

4.5. Deliverable 5: National, Regional and Municipal EAFM Trainings Conducted

In Year 2, ECOFISH conducted trainings at the MKBA level on fisheries law enforcement and MPA management, among others. The Project also held workshops to refine local priorities and plans based on the results of the baseline assessments that the Project conducted in Year 1. In addition, BFAR and ECOFISH conducted trainings on fisherfolk registration, including the use of additional tools, such as the TVWS in Danajon to improve the efficiency of the registration process.

During Year 3, ECOFISH conducted follow through trainings on socio-economic and biological assessments, constituency building and conflict management, MPA networks, boat and gear registration systems, law enforcement, fish examiner, local legislation and administrative adjudication, and marine spatial planning. The Project will consolidate training materials into handy toolkits that will complement the LGU Start-Up Guide.

Also in Year 3, The Project adopted the EAFM Training Course developed by CTI, NOAA, and other agencies as a national training curriculum, but adapt the modules to the Philippines using existing examples. The Training Course for the Philippines will also have two variants, targeting: (1) BFAR/Provincial participants (who are facilitators of MKBA-wide EAFM initiatives), and (2) LGU officials (who will implement local CFRM initiatives).

Trainings Conducted with National and Local Partners in Year 3

List of Trainings/Workshop	Trainees		Date	Venue
	M	F	from-to	
Essential Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management Training for Trainers	15	16	Oct 19-24, 2014	Bonuan Binloc, Dagupan
Essential Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management Training for Trainers	22	19	Oct 26-30, 2014	Bonuan Binloc, Dagupan
FARMC Re-orientation, Assessment, Planning Workshop and EAFM Benchmarking in Danajon Bank	27	11	Nov. 13, 2014	Tagbilaran City, Bohol
Culion PO's Leadership Training	14	19	22-Oct-14	Hotel Maya, Culion, Palawan
MPA MEAT Orientation & Assessment Workshop	25	3	23-Oct-14	SB Session Hall, CPG, Bohol
MPA MEAT Orientation & Assessment Workshop	21	3	24-Oct-14	CRM Office, Ubay, Bohol
Coastal Vulnerability Assessment Facilitators Training	33	19	Oct 21-22, 2014	Murcia, Neg. Occ.
Workshop on Municipal Fisheries Ordinance Review and Administrative Adjudication	23	7	Nov. 19-20, 2014	Negros Oriental
Value Formation And Gender Sensitivity Training	9	0	Dec. 1-2, 2014	Coron, Palawan
VMG Formulation & Strategic Planning	22	12	15-Nov-14	Palawan
Orientation and Creation of Municipal Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council	42	23	09-Dec-14	Basay, Negros Oriental
VMG & Strategic Planning	13	7	12-Nov-14	Busuanga, Palawan
Enumerator's Training on Fish Catch Monitoring (Danajon)	10	8	Jan. 13-16, 2015	Tubigon, Bohol
Partner's Training on Fish Catch Monitoring & Fisher Gear Inventory for CIG	12	6	Nov. 13-16, 2014	Culion, Palawan
Workshop on the Establishment and Management of Artificial Reefs (ARs)	20	2	Dec. 3-5, 2014	Paringao, La Union
Enumerator's Training on Fish Catch Monitoring (Surigao)	13	5	Jan. 27-30, 2015	Surigao City, SDN
Study Tour of San Bernardino MKBA LGUs to VIP Batangas	14	10	Feb. 22-26, 2015	VIP, Batangas
VMG Formulation & Strategic Planning of Baldat & Binudac Fisherfolk Organization	14	10	16-Nov-14	WPU, Palawan
Joint MPA Meeting Workshop	28	8	Nov. 5-6, 2014	Linapacan, Palawan
Drafting of Integrated Marine Spatial Use Plan in Calamianes Islands (Round 4) for Incorporation in the Comprehensive Land	7	3	Oct. 15-17, 2014	Coron, Palawan

and Water Use Plan				
Leadership and Gender Sensitivity Training	19	12	Jan. 21-22, 2015	Busuanga, Palawan
Leadership and Gender Sensitivity Training (VIP)	5	12	Feb. 12-13, 2015	Calatagan Batangas
Marine Spatial Planning Workshop	26	24	Mar 17-19, 2015	Tagaytay City
Partner's Training on Fish Catch Monitoring & Fisher Gear Inventory for VIP	2	9	Feb. 23-25, 2015	Calatagan, Batangas
Enumerator's Training on Fish Catch Monitoring (Sorsogon)	13	9	Mar 4-6, 2015	Sorsogon City
IEC Workshop for VIP-Marine Key Biodiversity Area (Batangas)	16	3	Nov. 27-28, 2014	Tagaytay City
Enumerator's Training on Fish Catch Monitoring (Negros)	17	7	Mar 10-12, 2015	Bayawan City
BERT-Operational and Implementation Planning Workshop	46	6	Oct. 9-10, 2014	Lian, Batangas
SNCDMC Planning Workshop	11	2	Apr 7-8, 2015	IBC, Bayawan City
Organizational Diagnostic for PO's of Mabini Batangas	19	8	24-Jun-15	Mabini, Batangas
Organizational Diagnostic for PO's of Nasugbu Batangas			25-Jun-15	MAO Nasugbu, Batangas
Values Formation, Vision, Mission, Goals & Strategic Plan Workshop (VIP)	18	7	Mar 16-18, 2015	Lobo, Batangas
South Negros Core Group Meeting	11	8	10-Feb-15	Basay, Neg. Oriental
Round Table Discussion on Illegal Fishing Issue in Surigao del Norte	22	7	Feb. 17-18, 2015	Surigao City, S. del Norte
CIG MPA Network Training-Workshop:Building Gender Sensitive Leaders	39	19	Jan. 22-23, 2015	Coron, Palawan
Coron MFARMC Re-Election and Orientation on Basic Fisheries Law and Other Related Policies	15	5	17-Mar-15	RAC Site, Coron, Palawan
EAFM compliance promotion and enforcement trainings, workshops and meetings: Others (CLE Council Cluster4 (Getafe, Talibon, Bien Unido, Trinidad) re-organizational meeting and Assessment	39	11	26-Mar-15	Talibon, Bohol
EAFM Compliance and Enforcement Training Assessment (LG)	46	16	Dec. 3-4, 2015	San Fernando La Union
EAFM Compliance promotion and Enforcement Training -Advance Paralegal (DB)	41	10	Dec. 2-4, 2014	Brgy. Arado, Palo, Leyte
Mangrove and Beach Forest Training Course	22	11	Oct. 14-16, 2014	Hotel Maya, Culion, Palawan

Coastal Law Enforcement Training for Bantay Dagat of San Juan, Batangas	42	2	June 3-5,2015	San Juan Batangas
Reproductive Biology Training for Small Pelagic Fishes in Sibuyan Sea and Cuyo East Pass	14	23	June 2-5,2015	San Jose Antique
EAFM compliance promotion and enforcement trainings, workshops and meetings: Others (CLE Council Cluster 5, Ubay, CPG, Candijay, Mabini) Orientation, re-organizational meeting and assessment workshop)			06-Apr-15	Poblacion, Ubay, Bohol
Training on Marine Spatial Planning in Danajon	33	14	April 29-30, 2015	Tagbilaran City
Presentation of the Draft SMRR Workshop	13	14	Oct. 27-28, 2014	Diliman Quezon City
Culminating SEA (Sea and Earth Advocates) Camp	15	15	June 10-14, 2015	Coron, Palawan
Gender Sensitivity Training (GST) Cum 2016 GAD Planning and Budgeting (GPB)	16	18	May 27-29, 2015	Coron, Palawan

The box below summarizes the status (O – ongoing; C – completed) of various interventions and activities under Deliverable 5.

Deliverable 5: National, Regional and Municipal EAFM Trainings Conducted				
Project Intervention/Activity	2015			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Develop or refine training courses for the EAFM curriculum				
Adopt the EAFM Training Course developed by CTI, NOAA, and other agencies as a national training curriculum, but adapt the modules to the Philippines using existing examples.	O	O	O	O
Develop/refine training courses (baseline assessments, constituency building/conflict management, MPA networks, registration systems, law enforcement, fish examiner, local legislation/administrative adjudication, marine spatial planning).	O	O	O	O
Deliver training courses for national government, LGUs, NGOs, and university network in MKBAs (at least 4 per MKBA)				
Deliver training courses for national government, LGUs, NGOs, and university networks (in at least 4 MKBAs) including socio-economic and biological monitoring assessments, constituency building/conflict management, MPA networks, boat/gear registration systems, law enforcement, fish examiner, local legislation/administrative adjudication, marine spatial planning).	O	O	O	C
Conduct training series for National Quick Response Team on fishery law enforcement				
Conduct training series for National Quick Response Team on fishery law enforcement (fish examiner's training module review and trainer's training).				

Conduct training series for MKBA Quick Response Team on fishery law enforcement				
Conduct training series for MKBA Quick Response Team on fishery law enforcement (in 3 MKBAs), fish examiner's training, basic/advance law enforcement).				
Team Lead: Senior Governance and Institutional Development Specialist, IEC Specialist, Senior Fisheries and Coastal Resource Management Specialist, Regulation and Enforcement Specialist Key Partners: BFAR, DENR, Philippine Coast Guard, PNP, NFARMC and LMP				

Highlights of key activities/accomplishments under Deliverable 5 during the reporting period include:

- The EAFM elements of capacity-building have been identified in the training curriculum, but their schedule of delivery will depend on the current capacity and readiness of LGUs in the MKBAs. The Project is utilizing the results of the EAFM benchmarking exercises as guide to the delivery of the training courses, targeting the needs of the municipalities in the MKBAs as indicated by their benchmark scores.
- ECOFISH and NOAA conducted an Essential EAFM training in the early part of Year 3 to demonstrate the curriculum designed originally for LMEs. ECOFISH will work with BFAR and local experts through Years 3 and 4 to customize the training curriculum and materials to the situation/conditions in the Philippines, for training both BFAR staff and LGU partners. The customized EAFM curriculum and module materials will constitute the training courses under Deliverable 5.
- ECOFISH is working with the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP) to provide an institutional home for the EAFM Training Course for LGUs. BFAR will also host the parallel Training Course designed for its staff.

Unplanned activities:

None

Activities not accomplished and why:

- The national EAFM training courses have not been completed, pending agreement with BFAR on the need and focus of the EAFM training curriculum.

Issues and concerns:

- Project specialists met with key BFAR officials to discuss priorities on fishery law enforcement training, especially for the QRTs that BFAR has enlisted. The initial idea is for the national and regional QRTs to join the project trainings related to law enforcement and act as resource persons or co-trainees. However, it appears that the QRTs are not yet confident enough to be trainers.

Recommended courses of action:

- In the last quarter of Year 2, BFAR agreed to adopt/adapt the Essential EAFM Training Course developed by NOAA and other partners. This adapted EAFM Training Course for the Philippines, including the course modules, will become the National EAFM Training Curriculum.
- ECOFISH has not initiated a formal assessment of the capacity of QRTs (which BFAR should spearhead, if needed), but instead, the Project will make the assessment of individual QRT members in the project sites as part of the design of trainings in each of the MKBAs.

4.6. Deliverable 6: Public-Private Partnerships Supporting ECOFISH Objectives Established

As of the end of Year 3, ECOFISH has completed 7 strategic partnerships with various private partners, has begun building an additional 3 strategic partnerships, and has established 97 community partnerships, with several more being developed, to support the Project's EAFM interventions.

Specifically, ECOFISH sought to expand the usage of the Philippine National Police-Maritime Group (PNP-MG) and SMART's 700DALOY hotline to improve the reporting of marine wildlife violations across the country. The team completed a comprehensive grassroots-based assessment of blue swimming crab in Bohol testing the use of spawning potential ratio (SPR) as reference point. The Project implemented a pilot PPP training program for LGU champions to support EAFM in ECOFISH sites and commenced the incubation of prospective social enterprises with the Asian Institute of Management for selected ECOFISH sites. The Project was lucky enough to be able to communicate the results of the TV White Space Partnership in support of DA-BFAR's National Program for Municipal Fisherfolk Registration (FishR) to a global audience through the P3 Impact Awards. Additionally, ECOFISH co-organized a roundtable discussion with Partnerships for the Environmental Management of East Asian Seas (PEMSEA) entitled "Mobilizing Industry Champions towards a Blue Economy" in fulfillment of a partnership with the institution's Sustainable Business Network and facilitate the handing over of ECOFISH strategic partnerships.

Community partnerships, on the other hand, completed organizational diagnosis for 4 MKBAs and extended over 7 major trainings to build organizational capacity across ECOFISH sites covering topics like Values Orientation, Vision-Mission-Goals Formulation, Leadership, Gender, EAFM and developing skills on planning and financial management. The partnership with the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) to organize community partners in Negros Oriental to collect discarded nets to be transformed into carpet tiles is in full swing as with the partnership with Sentrong Pangkatutubong Yaman (SEKAYA) to kick-off a discovery process for herbal plants with potential medicinal value in Calamianes.

The box below summarizes the status (O – ongoing; C – completed) of various interventions and activities under Deliverable 6.

Deliverable 6: Public-Private Partnerships Supporting ECOFISH Objectives Established				
Project Intervention/Activity	2015			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Develop strategic partnerships				
Closing of partnership on TV White Space Supported Fisherfolk Registration in the Danajon Reef.	C			
Continue collection of data on SPR for the management of blue swimming crabs in Danajon Reef.	O	O	C	
Conduct consultation with local partners on the management measures resulting from the SPR data; data collection to evaluate the effect of management measures.			O	C
700DALOY Roadshow in Tawi-Tawi.	C			
Introduce upgrades to the 700DALOY system.	O	O	O	O
Launching of 700 DALOY in Southern Negros, Danajon Reef, San Bernardino Strait and Lingayen Gulf.		O	O	O
Launching of 700 DALOY in Calamianes Group of Islands, VIP, and Surigao del Norte.			O	O
Conduct pilot PPP training.	C			
Develop framework for mentorship and incubation for enterprise development.	C			
Establish a menu of enterprise development activities for mentorship support .	C			
Conduct mentorship activities.		O	O	O
Conduct scoping, negotiations and formalization of partnership programs.	O	O	O	O
Establishment of community partnerships				
Organizational strengthening and legitimization for Calamianes Island Group, VIP, and Southern Negros.	O	O	O	O
Assistance for enterprise development activities.	O	O	O	O
Organizational diagnosis, strengthening and legitimization for Danajon Reef, Surigao del Norte, San Bernardino Strait, Lingayen Gulf, Tawi-Tawi.	O	O	O	O
Team Lead: SSG Advisors Partnership Specialist, Senior Resource Economics Specialist, REECS, SSG Key Partners: BFAR, private sector, LGUs				

Highlights of key activities/accomplishments under Deliverable 6 during the reporting period include:

- In March 2015, the Project officially closed the “TVWS Supported Fisherfolk Registration in the Danajon Reef” partnership with Department of Science and Technology’s Information and Communication Technology Office (DOST-ICTO) and Microsoft that resulted in the registration of over 3000 fisherfolk in the pilot sites, facilitated in part by the connectivity, tablets, and incentives introduced under the partnership.

- The “TVWS Partnership” was announced as a finalist of the P3 Impact Awards hosted by the US State Department, University of Virginia, and Concordia. Announcement of the winner to be held at the P3 Summit in October 2015.
- The team completed the “Species Specific Assessment and Piloting of Spawning Potential Ratio (SPR) Method for the Blue Swimming Crab in the Danajon Reef”. The results of the assessment were presented at a workshop in Bohol with stakeholders on July 2015. Partners agreed to proceed to a phase 2 of the partnership focused on phasing out liftnets in favor of crab pots through a massive gear swapping program to be led by BFAR7.
- ECOFISH implemented a pilot PPP and EAFM training program in May 2015 for over 20 local government champions as part of a partnership between USAID and the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP). The PPP Center of the Philippines under the National Economic Development Authority has since committed to mentor promising PPP ideas.
- The team is currently working for the expansion of the “700DALOY (Dedicated Alert Lines for Ocean Biodiversity)” partnership between the Philippine National Police-Maritime Group, Smart and USAID. Over 28 cases have been filed and Php 6 million worth of contraband have been seized as a result of support provided under the hotline against marine wildlife violators. The PNP-MG was also awarded the Environmental Enforcement Award by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- The Project initiated the “Technical Support for Enterprise Development” Partnership with the Asian Institute of Management (AIM) through a series of capacity building activities led by an AIM mentor with the Tagbanua Tribe of Coron Island, in Coron and selected municipalities in Verde Island Passage.
- ECOFISH team organized several training and organizational activities with the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) to identify and capacitate candidate people’s organizations to collect discarded nets as a form of livelihood and to contribute towards the upcycling of these nets into high-end carpet tiles.
- ECOFISH co-organized a roundtable discussion with PEMSEA entitled “Mobilizing Industry Champions towards a Blue Economy”. Over 30 participants from ECOFISH private partners participated to identify pathways towards deeper engagement in the coastal and marine sectors through PEMSEA’s Sustainable Business Network—a Network partially set-up with ECOFISH to facilitate the handing over of ECOFISH strategic partnerships beyond the project’s lifetime.
- The Project entered into a partnership with Sentrong Pangkatutubong Yaman (SEKAYA) to facilitate the discovery process of herbal plants in Calamianes with potential medicinal value.
- All partner fisherfolk organizations in VIP, Surigao Mainland, Siargao Island and Southern Negros acquired their registration from government agencies (DOLE, SEC and LGU) thru the help of the Municipal Agriculture Office and ECOFISH. The registration for accreditations of the fisherfolk organizations in Calamianes, specifically the Municipality of Busuanga, is ongoing.
- Organizational diagnosis of community partners of 4 MKBAs (VIP, Southern Negros, CIG and Surigao) has been completed. The result of the organizational diagnosis was used in designing the modules of organizational trainings to address the gaps identified in knowledge, skills and attitudes of the organizations. Trainings have since been completed in 3 MKBAs (VIP, Calamianes, and Surigao).

- Resources leveraged as of the end of Year 3 via PPPs are estimated at USD 36.28 million. Details are summarized below:

Name of Partnership	Partners	Value (PhP)	Value (US\$)
TVWS Supported Fisherfolk Registration in the Danajon Reef	DOST-ICT Office	1.45 B	32,222,222
	BFAR	70 M	1,627,907
	Bohol Province	0.1 M	2,326
	Microsoft Philippines	2.5 M	58,140
Species Specific Assessment and Spawning Potential Ratio of Blue Swimming Crab in the Danajon Reef	Philippine Assoc. of Crab Processors Inc. (PACPI)	2 .0M	44,961
700DALOY	Smart Communications	2.69 M	62,558
	PNP-Maritime Group	83.4 M	1,853,333
PPP Training	DAP	2 M	46,512
Bancas for Calamianes (fiber glass boats)	WWF	6.5 M	151,163
	Polymer Products Philippines Inc. (PPPI)	0.3 M	6,977
Enterprise Development Support	AIM	8.9 M	206,977
		1.63 B	36,283,076

Unplanned activities:

- Conducted Leadership and Gender Sensitivity Training for 10 MPA organizations in the Calamian Island Group.
- Conducted and designed IEC Training Workshop for the LGU's Staff of the Verde Island Passage in connection with the Closed Season of Balayan Bay.

Activities not accomplished and why:

None

Issues and concerns:

None

Recommended courses of action:

None

4.7. Deliverable 7: Bio-physical, Social and Economic Baseline Assessments of the 8 MKBAs

To measure key ECOFISH Project results, baseline assessments was conducted during the Year 1 of project implementation while monitoring events were scheduled for Years 3 and 5. The Year

3 monitoring event started in January 2015 and included various data collection schemes for fisheries, MPA, socioeconomic, enforcement and governance surveys.

Fisheries and MPA monitoring were conducted in the same sampling sites established during the baseline assessment in Year 1. Catch rates and biomass of selected fisheries resources in focal areas within the MKBAs were measured using fisheries-dependent assessment methods. The same sets of information were collected, namely: catch rate, fishing effort, catch composition, size composition and extent of fishing areas. For MPAs, reef fish biomass, coral cover and species richness were the main parameters monitored. Other information important to management of the habitats such as the presence of other flora and fauna, dead corals, and other ecological parameters were also collected.

The socio-economic monitoring event was conducted using the same households surveyed during the baseline assessment. The survey instrument was shortened and reconfigured so it is more compatible and consistent with the fisheries surveys. The reconfiguration will not affect the baseline results, but rather will allow a more detailed and refined presentation of socio-economic trends, and will allow easier integration of the biophysical and socio-economic trends later on.

The socio-economic monitoring survey was implemented with the same set of 4,727 households interviewed for the baselines. The instrument was tweaked a bit to be more in sync with the fish catch monitoring surveys. In particular, the list of gears has been designed to be fully compatible with the gears monitored by the fish catch monitoring teams. Results of the surveys are still being processed, and should be ready for submission by the 1st quarter of Year 4.

EAFM benchmarking and assessment of the status of enforcement conducted in Year 1 were repeated in Year 3. This is both for project monitoring purposes as well as to serve as feedback and guide to local partners on the status and development of their fisheries management and enforcement programs.

The box below summarizes the status (O – ongoing; C – completed) of various interventions and activities under Deliverable 7.

Deliverable 7: Bio-physical, Social and Economic Baseline Assessments of the 8 MKBAs				
Project Intervention/Activity	2015			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Conduct fisheries baseline assessment and monitoring				
Coordination with LGUs covering selected focal areas in the 8 MKBAs.	O	C		
Hiring and training of personnel.	O	C		
Data collection and analysis.	O	O	O	C
Conduct MPA baseline assessment and monitoring (as part of MPA establishment)				
Coordination with LGUs covering the selected focal areas in the 8 MKBAs.	O	O		
Hiring and training of personnel.	O	O		
Data collection and analysis.	O	O	O	C
Conduct socioeconomic monitoring				
Refine the survey instrument.	C			
Train/ reorient enumerators for each MKBA.	C	C		

Conduct surveys in all MKBAs and process data.		C	C	
Feedback results to LGUs, BFAR and other partners.	O	O	O	O
Use results for refining establishment of social enterprises and other socio-economic interventions of the Project.	O	O	O	O
Conduct enforcement baseline assessment and monitoring				
Coordination with LGUs covering selected focal areas in the 8 MKBAs.	O	O	O	O
Conduct workshop/FGD, data collection and analysis.	O	O	O	O
Conduct EAFM governance assessment and monitoring using benchmarking system in MKBA focal area LGUs				
Coordination with LGUs covering selected focal areas in the 8 MKBAs.	O	C		
Conduct workshop/FGD, data collection and analysis.	O	O	O	O
Team Lead: Senior Fisheries and Coastal Resource Management Specialist, MERF, Senior Resource Economics Specialist, GIS-KIM Specialist Key Partners: BFAR, LMP, MKBA LGUs				

Highlights of key activities/accomplishments under Deliverable 7 during the reporting period include:

- Fisheries monitoring surveys were conducted in the landing sites established during the baseline assessment in Year 1. Catch rates and biomass of selected fisheries resources in focal areas within the MKBAs were measured using fisheries-dependent assessment methods. Similar sets of information were collected, namely: catch rate, fishing effort, catch composition, size composition and extent of fishing areas. For MPAs,
- MPA monitoring surveys were conducted in the sampling sites established during the baseline assessment in Year 1. Reef fish biomass, coral cover and species richness were the main parameters monitored. Other information important to management of the habitats such as the presence of other flora and fauna, dead corals, and other ecological parameters were collected.
- Socio-economic monitoring surveys conducted among 4,727 households across all 8 MKBAs
- Data encoded and being processed for submission in the 1st quarter of Year 4

Unplanned activities:

None

Activities not accomplished and why:

None

Issues and concerns:

- In the course of providing feedback to LGU partners in the MKBAs, it was discovered that the socio-economic household survey in Tawi-Tawi encountered a number of problems. Some enumerators did not interview the designated households that were identified through the random sampling method. There were stories of enumerators interviewing random people

in the marketplace. In some instances, interviews were not conducted at all, and enumerators manufactured some of the data, as reported by some LGU partners.

Recommended courses of action:

- The socio-economic baselines for Tawi-Tawi will be established through the monitoring event in Year 3. Results of the surveys in year 1 will be discarded, as they are not reliable.

4.8. Deliverable 8: Scientific Studies on Select MKBA-Specific Fish Species

In Year 3, the Project team provided technical support and scientific expertise in the conduct of fisheries biological and stock assessment studies by NSAP in preparation to the various fisheries management interventions in the major fishing grounds of the country. This included support like serving as resource persons in training of enumerators in the conduct of fisheries reproductive biology studies and scientific advice to NSAP teams embarking into those studies. In specific instances, the project supported the entire fisheries management intervention process by cluster of LGUs from scientific studies to drafting of policies, to consultation, and up to the actual implementation of the management interventions. The fisheries team likewise continued to develop working trophic models for the various focal areas in preparation for the right-sizing of fishing effort.

In partnership with the Philippine Association of Crab Processors, Inc. (PACPI) and the National Fisheries Institute (NFI) the ECOFISH team concluded the “Species Specific Assessment and Piloting of Spawning Potential Ratio Method for the Blue Swimming Crab in the Danajon Reef”. The data collection was conducted from May 2014 to May 2015 to provide estimates of the spawning potential ratio of the blue crab that can ultimately be used as tool or reference point for managing the resource. The results were presented to BFAR, PACPI and LGU partners in June 2015. The partners agreed to a gear swap scheme to reduce and ultimately ban the use of gears catching immature blue crabs. The management measure is currently being worked out with BFAR as contribution to its nationwide Blue Crab Management Plan.

Value chain studies were completed for all 8 MKBAs. Surveys were done during the 1st and 2nd quarters of the year, after which a writeshop was held in April to process the data gathered and agree on uniform methods of analysis and report writing. Reports were drafted and edited during the last 2 quarters of Year 3, and all final reports were submitted in September 2015. The results are now being used to input into other project interventions, and are being shared with other partners and stakeholders for possible use in their respective interventions.

For the conduct of Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA), majority of the project sites have gathered their respective LGUs’ income and expenditures statements for the past 5 years. The data will be processed and used as the project develops a simple and usable scheme to conduct CBA at the local level, which can be used by the MKBAs in proving the case for sustainable fisheries management and as input into local development planning. For sites that have implemented Willingness-to-Pay surveys, recreational values will be estimated and used in the CBA tool as well.

The box below summarizes the status (O – ongoing; C – completed) of various interventions and activities under Deliverable 8.

Deliverable 8: Scientific Studies on Select MKBA-Specific Fish Species				
Project Intervention/Activity	2015			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Determine and establish trophic interactions and appropriate fishing effort configuration using Ecopath model				
Develop various choice scenarios on effort configuration in at least two MKBAs (former FISH project sites).	O	O	O	C
Consultation with stakeholders on establishing appropriate fishing effort in at least 2 MKBAs (former FISH project sites).		O	O	O
Develop and refine trophic models for the rest of the other MKBAs.		O	O	O
Identify species-specific or fishing gear studies based on results of baseline assessment (in new MKBA focal areas)				
Finalize species-specific or gear-specific interventions with partners.	O	O	O	O
Identify and establish socio-economic safety nets for displaced fisherfolk with the imposition of species-specific interventions.	O	O	O	O
Assess and evaluate the viability of mariculture species (with preference towards lower trophic level species)				
Assess and evaluate the viability of mariculture species in the rest of the other MKBAs.	O	O	O	O
Assess and evaluate the economic feasibility of sea cucumber ranching in selected MKBAs.	O	O	O	O
Establish management/mitigation measures for mariculture activities				
Establish management/mitigation measures for mariculture activities in the rest of the other MKBAs.	O	O	O	O
Value chain analysis for local fisheries				
Choose species for value chain studies.	C			
Conduct value chain studies.		O	O	C
Determine economic values and perform cost-benefit analysis in MKBA focal area LGUs (same as in Deliverable 12)				
Collect baseline information on CRM revenues and expenditures per LGU.	O	O		
Team Lead: Senior Fisheries and Coastal Resource Management Specialist, MERF, Senior Resource Economics Specialist Key Partners: BFAR, SEAFDEC, University network (SAF may be used to support these institutions)				

Highlights of key activities/accomplishments under Deliverable 8 during the reporting period include:

- Provided technical support to fisheries reproductive biology trainings of NSAP Regions 1, 4-B and 6.

- The fisheries management team provided scientific advise to NSAP Region 4-B in the conduct studies and development of plans for the management of roundscad fisheries in Palawan. This also included providing guidance to the technical working group in coming up with the various options for the management of roundscad fisheries in Palawan including the possible seasonal closure option. Species included are: *Decapterus macrosoma* (short fin scad), *D. russelli* (Indian scad), *D. kurroides* (redtail scad), *D. tabl* (roughear scad), *D. macarellus* (mackerel scad), and *D. maruadsi* (Japanese scad).
- ECOFISH provided technical and policy support in the implementation of seasonal closure for small pelagics in Balayan Bay (*Pagpapahinga ng Look ng Balayan*), and facilitated livelihood support for the implementation of the first-ever inter-LGU enforced seasonal closure. Nine LGUs of Balayan Bay agreed to enforce the seasonal closure in December 2014, based on the scientific and policy recommendations of ECOFISH. ECOFISH initiated linkage with DSWD to implement a complementary cash-for-work program for affected fishing boat crew who temporarily stopped fishing during the closure.
- The fisheries team of the project initiated the fisheries monitoring in September 2015 to January 2016 to determine the biological effects of the seasonal closure for small pelagics in Balayan Bay.
- The team also initiated the biological data collection to support possible fisheries management options for *Sardinella lemuru* or “lawlaw”, in San Bernardino Strait and Ticao Pass including seasonal closure.
- The data collection to provide estimates of the spawning potential ratio (SPR) of blue crab for use as reference point to manage the resource has been completed and the results were presented to BFAR, PACPI and LGU partners. The partners agreed to a gear swap scheme to reduce and ultimately ban the use of gears catching immature blue crabs to improve the SPR value. The measure is currently being worked out with BFAR as contribution to its nationwide Blue Crab Management Plan.
- Value chain studies for all 8 sites have been completed, and are now being shared with partners and stakeholders. Results are now being used as inputs into other project interventions. Species/commodities selected for this study include:

MKBA	Species
Calamianes Island Group	Sea cucumber
Danajon Bank Double Barrier Reef	<i>Portunus pelagicus</i> - blue crab
Lingayen Gulf	<i>Siganus spp.</i> – rabbit fish
Ticao-Lagonoy Gulf-San Bernardino Strait	<i>Sardinella lemuru</i> - Lawlaw sardines
Surigao del Norte	<i>Scylla serrata</i> - mud crab
South Negros	<i>Thunnus albacares</i> - yellow fin tuna
Tawi-Tawi	<i>Portunus palagicus</i> - blue crab
Verde Island Passage	<i>Decapterus macrosoma</i> - round scad

- Income and expenditures statements of most focal LGUs have been gathered. These are now being processed to become part of a CBA tool being initiated by the project.
- Culture species and the mitigation measures for the mariculture activities in the former FISH Project sites have been reviewed and the conduct of the study to update and conduct of

assessment to evaluate the viability of culture species and establishment of mitigation measures will be conducted in Year 4.

Unplanned activities:

None

Activities not accomplished and why:

None

Issues and concerns:

None

Recommended courses of action:

None

4.9. Deliverable 9: MPA Network Analyses in the Eight MKBAs

In the former FISH Project sites, networks of MPAs were established but recent surveys indicate that management of many component MPAs were not sustained. The project team decided to regularly subject these MPAs to an assessment and evaluation process using the MPA Evaluation and Assessment Tool (MEAT).

MPA network analyses involve the construction of a connectivity matrix using results from hydrodynamic study and dispersal models and will be used to identify potential sources and sinks of larvae. Dispersal models for Calamianes Island Group, Danajon Reef, Surigao and Tawi-Tawi systems have already been previously developed and will be utilized for MPA network analysis and establishment or strengthening the network of MPAs. In Year 2 through Year 3, ECOFISH, through MERF, completed the development of the dispersal models for the other MKBAs, namely, Lingayen Gulf, Verde Island Passage, San Bernardino Strait – Ticao Pass – Lagonoy Gulf, and South Negros. These models are being used to guide the project staff and partners develop their MKBA-specific MPA network designs.

Currently, the project is focusing on the capacity building of the team to be able to design the MPA networks in their respective MKBAs incorporating measures to adapt to climate change and other human induced factors like destructive fishing and water pollution. A training of trainers (ToT) is being developed and to be rolled out. The MPA Network designing activities will mostly be completed in Year 4.

The box below summarizes the status (O – ongoing; C – completed) of various interventions and activities under Deliverable 9.

Deliverable 9: MPA Network Analyses in the Eight MKBAs				
Project Intervention/Activity	2015			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Conduct hydrodynamic study and dispersal modeling				
Finalize hydrodynamic study and dispersal models for area selected for establishment of network of MPAs.	C*			
Develop MPA network design (includes climate change adaptation strategies)				
Draft MPA network design.	O	O	O	O
Consult with partners until finalization of the MPA network design.	O	O	O	O
Establish MPA network in new MKBAs				
Conduct partner consultations and meetings to set up component MPAs as part of the network.	O	O	O	C
Develop plan to implement component MPAs including tasking, and financing.	O	O	O	O
Strengthen MPA networks in existing MKBA focal areas				
Develop customized capacity building program for MPA networks to promote compliance and enforce regulations (continuing activities).	O	O	O	O
Team Lead: Senior Fisheries and Coastal Resource Management Specialist, MERF				
Key Partners: BFAR, University network (SAF may be used to support local colleges)				

* - Hydrodynamic study and dispersal model still needs to be developed for the Surigao del Norte focal area. This is an old FISH Project MKBA but the original focal area was Lanuza Bay. There is a need to develop a separate study and model for this new focal area.

Highlights of key activities/accomplishments under Deliverable 9 during the reporting period include:

- The development of the hydrodynamic and dispersal models for the new sites (Lingayen Gulf, Verde Island Passage, San Bernardino Strait – Ticao Pass – Lagonoy Gulf, and South Negros MKBAs) has been completed.
- The team regularly evaluated existing MPAs using the MPA Evaluation and Assessment Tool (MEAT).
- The site team revisited, assessed, provided technical assistance and strengthened the management councils of existing networks of MPAs in the Calamianes Island Group and the Verde Island Passage MKBAs.
- The enforcement team of the project started the series of trainings for MPA guards for the network of MPAs. This will be continued and repeated for all networks of MPAs in the 8 MKBAs.
- ECOFISH co-organizes and facilitates the Calamian Island Group MPA Network (CMN) regular meeting. CMN is composed of the MPA management council chairmen/managers and secretary, representatives from Municipal Agriculture Office, SB and academe. These meetings also include conduct of MEAT and leadership and gender sensitivity trainings.

- Siete Pecados Marine Park in the CIG was chosen as one of the 16 finalists among 153 applicants in the Galing Pook Awards 2015. ECOFISH provided technical assistance to LGU-Coron in the preparation of application documents, personnel support during site validation activities, and technical support in the preparation of presentation during panel interview.
- The Bulan LGU in San Bernardino Strait redesigned their Butag Bay MPA by setting up of two sanctuaries around the eastern and western sections of the reef identified by MERF to have good live coral cover. One issue that was resolved was the lack of community support because traditional fishing rights were not considered when the MPA was established in 1999. The modification was adopted by the LGU and is already reflected in their proposal for funding assistance from the Global Environmental Facility Component of the World Bank-. The team likewise helped the LGU in drafting the proposal.
- In partnership with the Southern Negros Coastal Development and Management Council (SNCDMC) and Peace Corps Volunteer (PCV), a series of underwater assessment and delineation of boundaries for the proposed MPAs in Brgy. Talacagay, Hinobaan; Brgy. Cayhagan, Sipalay City; and Brgy. Linawon, Cauayan were facilitated. The Barangay Councils from the three concerned Barangays have already issued resolutions for the establishment of said MPAs and the technical reports have been submitted and endorsed to the respective LGUs for appropriate action.
- In partnership with Peace Corps Volunteer, ECOFISH provided technical assistance and training materials during the training on biophysical assessment techniques for local members of Brgy. Manalongon, Sta. Catalina in June 2-3, 2015. This was followed by a public hearing for the proposed MPA in Brgy. Manalongon, Sta. Catalina spearheaded by the LGU . Once established, this will be the first MPA in the municipality of Sta. Catalina.

Unplanned activities:

None

Activities not accomplished and why:

- The network designs for the former FISH Project sites in the Calamianes Island Group, Danajon Reef, and Tawi-Tawi Bay have been in place there is still a need to revisit them and together with the new sites in Lingayen Gulf, San Bernardino Strait, South Negros, Surigao del Norte, and Verde Island Passage, the incorporation of vulnerability and risk assessments is needed to be able to consider not only climate change adaptation strategies, but also strategies to respond to destructive human activities.

Issues and concerns:

None

Recommended courses of action:

- The project is finalizing contract with MERF to conduct a Training of Trainers for an MPA Network Designing to incorporate climate change adaptation schemes and other response to

human activities like pollution and destructive fishing. The activity will include orientation and trainings of the site teams and key local partners to develop MPA network design based on suitability, sensitivity and susceptibility criteria.

4.10. Deliverable 10: Fisheries Management Plans of Select Inter-LGU Alliances in the Eight MKBAs

The inter-LGU initiatives of the project are slowly shaping up. For the LGU partners to advance towards inter-LGU arrangements, many basic LGU-specific elements have to be set in place. These were the major activities sponsored by ECOFISH in its Year 1 and 2 implementation. Some inter-LGU arrangements like inter-LGU fisheries management planning, marine spatial planning (fisheries use zoning), and establishment of inter-LGU enforcement teams have already started to be formed in Year 2, particularly in the former FISH Project sites. Many of the activities under this deliverable are continuing activities or activities that need to be revisited regularly.

In Year 3, the project team continued with the inter-LGU fisheries management planning process for the focal areas of the eight MKBAs. This culminated in the drafting of the Integrated Fisheries Management Plan for the cluster of municipalities constituting the focal areas. They were done parallel to the establishment and strengthening of the inter-LGU enforcement teams as well as strengthening their regulatory and compliance capabilities. To consolidate the various efforts, ECOFISH will likewise assisted these clusters of LGUs in developing their water and fisheries use zoning plans.

The box below summarizes the status (O – ongoing; C – completed) of various interventions and activities under Deliverable 10.

Deliverable 10: Fisheries Management Plans of Select Inter-LGU Alliances in the Eight MKBAs				
Project Intervention/Activity	2015			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Conduct integrated coastal and fisheries management planning for cluster of municipalities or LGU alliances				
Continue activities to revive or strengthen inter-LGU CFRM initiatives in the 8 MKBAs.	O	O	O	O
Continue inter-LGU planning process for the focal areas of the 8 MKBAs.	O	O	O	O
Provide technical support in the establishment of coastal and fisheries law enforcement teams (new sites)				
Conduct courses on fishery law enforcement as step in establishing enforcement teams and inter-LGU enforcement teams.	O	O	O	O
Provide technical support to strengthen coastal and fisheries law enforcement teams (former FISH sites)				
Continue the conduct of courses on fishery law enforcement as step in strengthening enforcement teams and inter-LGU enforcement teams.	O	O	O	O
Build/strengthen inter-LGU regulatory compliance and enforcement capabilities				

Establish or strengthen inter-LGU enforcement arrangements.	O	O	O	O
Conduct joint operations planning for cluster or alliance of LGUs.	O	O	O	O
Develop marine spatial zoning plan				
Assist cluster of LGUs in reviving or strengthening the zoning plans (in FISH Project sites).	O	O	O	O
Assist cluster of LGUs in developing the marine spatial zoning plan (in the rest of the other sites).	O	O	O	O
Establish appropriate fishing effort configuration for focal areas in the MKBAs				
Consultation with focal area LGUs on the appropriate fishing effort configuration for focal areas of at least two MKBAs.		O	O	O
Team Lead: DCOP for Operation, Senior Fisheries and Coastal Resource Specialist, Regulation and Enforcement Specialist				
Key Partners: BFAR regional and provincial offices, provincial governments and PNP				

Highlights of key activities/accomplishments under Deliverable 10 during the reporting period include:

- ECOFISH completed the Inter-LGU Fisheries Management Plans for the LGU alliance of South Negros, the focal area municipalities in Surigao del Norte, Bohol municipalities of Danajon Reef and the Calamianes Island Group municipalities. The inter-LGU alliances in the Negros Oriental and Negros Occidental sides of South Negros, the Provincial government Surigao del Norte, the Coastal Law Enforcement Council (CLEC) of Bohol municipalities in Danajon Reef, and the Calamianes Island Group Management Council will oversee and guide the integrated implementation of the management interventions identified and prioritized by the stakeholders.
- The ECOFISH team conducted refresher courses as well as orientation trainings on fishery law enforcement as intermediate step in strengthening enforcement teams.
- The team assisted in the joint operations planning for cluster or alliance of LGUs and established or strengthened inter-LGU enforcement arrangements by defining roles of various players and clearly defining the rules of engagement.
- The team revisited, reviewed and revised the fisheries use zoning plans for the clusters of municipalities in former FISH Project sites and initiated the conduct of fisheries use zoning planning in the new sites. Fisheries use zoning plans for Calamianes Island Group, Bohol side of the Danajon Reef, and Verde Island Passage MKBAs are in the final stages of completion. Orientation and mapping stages of zoning activities have been started in Leyte-side of Danajon Reef, Surigao del Sur, Lingayen Gulf and South Negros MKBAs.

Unplanned activities:

None

Activities not accomplished and why:

- Consultation with focal area LGUs on the appropriate fishing effort configuration was not initiated since the project team still does not feel that the LGUs are ready for this initiative.

Instead, the team is in the process of developing the design, approach and how this is going to be communicated with local partners.

Issues and concerns:

None

Recommended courses of action:

- The team is developing the design, process and communication strategy for the right sizing of fishing effort which comprise the core of fisheries management plans for the Inter-LGU Alliances.

4.11. Deliverable 11: Registry of Users of Municipal Fishing Waters Established in Select Municipal LGUs in the 8 MKBAs

In Year 2, ECOFISH provided support to BFAR in conducting trainings for LGUs on fisherfolk registration under the FishR that the Project helped design. ECOFISH decided to defer a complementary effort to develop a separate boat and gear registration system for LGUs when BFAR planned to launch a boat and gear registration program, called BoatR, to complement FishR. The activities identified in the work plan have been reconfigured in light of the action of BFAR to take the lead in facilitating the registration of fisherfolk, boats and gear and providing technical assistance and incentives to LGUs

ECOFISH provided support for implementation of FishR in project MKBAs. This included regular monitoring of the progress of partner LGUs in registering fisherfolk in their area, sending feedback to BFAR in case of problems, and finding means of improving registration efficiency through the use of modern technology (e.g. TVWS and tablets in Bohol, offline data encoding system for areas without or with poor internet connection). In Year 3, ECOFISH supported BFAR in the design and implementation of BoatR, including the actual trainings and monitoring of trainings in the Project's MKBAs.

The box below summarizes the status (O – ongoing; C – completed) of various interventions and activities under Deliverable 11.

Deliverable 11: Registry of Users of Municipal Fishing Waters Established in Select Municipal LGUs in the 8 MKBAs				
Project Intervention/Activity	2015			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Registration and licensing training and drafting of ordinance				
Registration and licensing training and drafting of ordinance (30 LGUs) – (BoatR - EO 305-based boat and gear registration compatible with FishR).	O	O	O	O

Registration component of national database developed and deployed to LGUs (for right sizing of effort and national database – BoatR, the boat and gear registration compatible with FishR).	O	O	O	O
Registration systems component of national database developed and deployed to LGUs				
Develop data acquisition and retrieval for the registration systems (focus only on fishing boats and gears) compatible with FishR.	O	O	O	O
Training on use of registration system in each MKBA for management				
Training on the use of registration system in each MKBA for management (10 LGUs) – (BoatR - boat and gear registration compatible with FishR).	O	O	O	O
Team Lead: Regulatory and Enforcement Specialist, Senior Fisheries and Coastal Resource Management Specialist.				
Key Partners: BFAR, LMP, MKBA LGUs				

Highlights of key activities/accomplishments under Deliverable 11 during the reporting period include:

- With the success of FishR, ECOFISH worked with BFAR to develop a complementary registration system for boats and gear, also known as BoatR. In anticipation of BoatR, ECOFISH advised partner LGUs in the project sites to refrain from developing an independent system of boat and gear registration. With BFAR taking the lead in BoatR, the pending issue on jurisdiction between MARINA and LGUs will hopefully be resolved, with BFAR taking the cudgels for the LGUs.
- Registration and licensing provisions have been incorporated in ordinances passed and in proposed ordinances of LGU partners in the project MKBAs. Many other LGUs in the former FISH project sites also have ordinances on fisher and fishing boat registration and several LGUs in the ECOFISH sites already have provisions on registration and licensing in their existing ordinances. Therefore, there is no need to propose ordinances for registration and licensing in these LGUs, as originally indicated in the workplan.

Unplanned activities:

- Instead of working with individual LGUs to develop and implement fisheries registries in the municipality, ECOFISH worked with BFAR to establish a national registration system. This is a more cost-effective strategy for the Project, since investing in policy adoption and implementation strategy will not only benefit partner LGUs, but all LGUs nationwide. In addition, BFAR covered all the costs of program implementation nationwide, including providing incentives for LGUs and fishers to complete the registration process.

Activities not accomplished and why:

- ECOFISH decided to defer a complementary effort to develop a separate boat and gear registration system for LGUs when BFAR planned to launch a boat and gear registration program.

Issues and concerns:

None

Recommended courses of action:

None

4.12. Deliverable 12: Revenue Generation System for Fisheries Management Established and Effectively Implemented in Select LGUs

Financial data of LGUs for the last five years has been collected for all MKBAs. These will now be processed and used for the Cost Benefit Analysis of LGU financial operations for fisheries management. Willingness to Pay (WTP) studies were conducted for Siaton and Hinobaan in Negros Oriental, and for the whole of Calamianes Island Group. Data has been encoded and analyzed, and the final reports will be completed in Year 4. Results will be presented to the respective LGUs for translation into ordinances and actual user fee schemes. In Siargao, Surigao del Norte, the WTP results were used by the Siargao PAMB in formulating their user fees. Although the original intent was for the results to be used directly by the LGUs, the PAMB ordinance would serve a similar purpose since LGUs comprise most of the PAMB membership. Two more WTP studies will be conducted in San Bernardino and Lingayen Gulf in Year 4.

The user fee scheme of TTCIA in Coron is being enhanced through a financial management training workshop facilitated by the project, in partnership with the Asian Institute of Management. The training was held in two phases during the 4th quarter, and was participated in by other Tagbanua POs in other parts of Coron (in partnership with CORDAID). The intervention will include the development of the TTCIA's operations manual, and a business plan for the management of their tourist destinations.

For LGUs that do not have any MPAs for tourism, the project was able to identify user fee schemes that may be implemented for each of them. These schemes will be studied and established in year 4.

In facilitating the Bub process, additional fisherfolk POs in VIP and CIG were provided with trainings on gender sensitivity, values formation and formulation of VMGs. Partner LGUs observed that there is an equal need for training on financial management, business planning and marketing before the POs can be left on their own to implement their Bub projects. These are scheduled for Year 4 implementation.

The box below summarizes the status (O – ongoing; C – completed) of various interventions and activities under Deliverable 12.

Deliverable 12: Revenue Generation System for Fisheries Management Established and Effectively Implemented in Select LGUs				
Project Intervention/Activity	2015			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Cost-benefit analysis of LGU operations involved in fisheries management				
Collect baseline information on CRM revenues and expenditures per LGU.	O	C		
Institute market-based financing instruments				
Enhance user fee schemes in Calamianes.	O	O	O	O
Conduct valuation studies in at least three MKBAs.	O	O	O	O
Identify and design user fee schemes and conduct valuation studies necessary for other MKBAs.			O	O
Scope for potential areas for replicating existing valuation studies and user fee schemes.			O	O
Facilitate larger access to national government budgets through BuB				
Coordinate with BuB process at the local level.	O	O	O	O
Liaise with national government agencies involved in the BuB process.	O	O	O	O
Link BuB proposals with IFRM business plans.	O	O	O	O
Team Lead: Senior Resource Economist, REECS, and SSG				
Key Partners: BFAR, LMP, LPP, LGUs				

Highlights of key activities/accomplishments under Deliverable 12 during the reporting period include:

- Baseline information on CRM revenues and expenditures for 42 LGUs has been collected
- WTP studies were conducted for South Negros and Calamianes MKBAs
- Ordinances related to the creation of auxiliary invoice taxes in all MKBAs have been collected
- Financial management training for TTCIA has been conducted. A manual on financial management has been produced for use by the project in its enterprise development work

Unplanned activities:

None

Activities not accomplished and why:

- The Bottom-up Budgeting process is now lodged with the DILG, and new guidelines on allowable projects have been issued. In previous years, projects that were directly related to conservation were allowed but the current the guidelines have eliminated many of these conservation-related projects from the list, as priority is given to income-generating projects. The project intends to work with DILG in attempting to expand the list of allowable projects

to include those related to conservation and natural resource regeneration, but this might have to wait until elections are held in mid-2016.

Issues and concerns:

None

Recommended courses of action:

None

4.13. Deliverable 13: Sustainable Financing Programs for EAFM Implemented in Select LGUs in the 8 MKBAs

In Year 3, socio-economic inputs were incorporated into the detailed outline of IFRM Plans to be drafted by the Project. The development of IFRM business plans for 4 MKBAs is being scheduled for Year 4, while the next 4 will be drafted in Year 5, following the schedule of the drafting of IFRM Plans. Social enterprise development has commenced in four MKBAs, namely: South Negros, Verde Island Passage, Surigao del Norte, and in the Calamianes Island Group.

MKBA awards are being implemented in VIP, through the BRAVO Awards. Although this was set up prior to the implementation of ECOFISH, the project provided technical support in refining the awards and continuing its implementation on a regular basis. Other MKBAs plan to set up their respective awards schemes in Years 4 and 5.

Continuous lobbying was undertaken for the establishment of the Fish Fund, together with NAPC. However, advocates within NAPC had other advocacies with respect to fisheries management in the national budget, i.e. the fish landing centers and fisherfolk resettlement program. The Fish Fund, which was intended to provide regular funds for scaling up ECOFISH activities at the national level, was unfortunately sidelined. Nevertheless, the Project will continue to lobby for this Fund during the Project lifetime.

A PES-like scheme was demonstrated in VIP through the Balayan Bay Seasonal Closure scheme. Cash payments were given to affected fish workers, in exchange for not fishing during the closed period, and for rendering public works identified by LGUs. The closure was assessed to be successful at the socio-economic, enforcement and governance levels, but has yet to be proven as to its impact on the fish stocks. The intervention is now being designed as a regular Balayan Bay-wide program for the next five years.

Another PES-like scheme being explored by the project is that of Development Impact Bonds (DIBs). The concept note of DIBs has been developed, but it is still being lobbied with potential partners in the US. The concept is very new, whereby it intends to attract private sector capital to finance fisheries management. As an incentive, governments will pay private sector back through revenues earned from successful fisheries management interventions like revenues from MPAs.

There are a few American venture capitalists who have expressed interest, and negotiations with them are ongoing.

The box below summarizes the status (O – ongoing; C – completed) of various interventions and activities under Deliverable 13.

Deliverable 13: Sustainable Financing Programs for EAFM Implemented in Select LGUs in the 8 MKBAs				
Project Intervention/Activity	2015			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Translate IFRM Plans into business plans				
Review existing management plans for developing business plans.			O	O
Draft business plans for selected LGUs with existing management plans.			O	O
Enterprise Development				
Identify potential enterprises that employ fisherfolk in MKBAs.	O	O	O	O
Link up/coordinate with interested partners from the private sector and/or NGOs in setting up the enterprise and community organizing work.	O	O	O	O
Link up with DSWD-SLP for various stages in enterprise development.	O	O	O	O
Commence social preparation work in 5 MKBAs.	O	O	O	O
Provide technical and administrative support in setting up the social enterprises, and tie up enterprise development work with other components of the Project.	O	O	O	O
Development of Inter-LGU Trust Funds				
Establish the national FishFund with NAPC, BFAR and DENR.	O	O	O	O
Capitalization of Coastal Adaptation Funds				
Scope for MKBAs or provincial LGUs where awards can be set up.	O	O	O	O
Establish PES Schemes				
Design and establish feasibility of Development Impact Bonds.	O	O	O	O
Implement cash for work for Balayan Bay Seasonal Closure	O	O	C	
Team Lead: Senior Resource Economics Specialist, REECS, and SSG				
Key Partners: BFAR, LGUs, Private Sector				

Highlights of key activities/accomplishments under Deliverable 13 during the reporting period include:

- South Negros POs are now being assisted closely in preparing them for this undertaking, particularly through the conduct of various trainings for PO strengthening. Skills transfer and credit sourcing will all be undertaken in year 4 for South Negros. One other partnership being implemented in South Negros is with the Networks Program of ZSL. Data gathering for the whole of Negros Island has been completed and is now being processed for submission to ZSL for possible inclusion in their project on purchasing discarded fishing nets.
- In VIP, the SAF contract was awarded during the 4th quarter, and the partner NGO has started mobilizing work in choosing the fisherfolk POs to be assisted and which enterprises to be established.

- In Surigao del Norte, partnerships have been established with government agencies (PCA, BFAR and DSWD) in funding this component given that this site is not supported by SAF. Other partnerships are being sought out from Shore it Up, AIM, and other potential private sector partners, to boost the funding and technical support needs of this activity.
- Finally, in CIG, the SAF contract was worked on during the last two quarters of Year 3. In the meantime, other partnerships were implemented to initiate enterprise development work with SAMDHANA, TTCIA and CORDAID in Coron. Arrangements with CIDA-LGSP, ASIADHRRA, Sekaya Foundation, C3 and DSWD are still being worked out. Working relationships with NCIP were firmed up, and close coordination is constantly being undertaken in areas involving the Tagbanuas of CIG.
- A PES-like scheme was demonstrated in VIP through the Balayan Bay Seasonal Closure scheme. Cash payments were given to affected fish workers, in exchange for not fishing during the closed period, and for rendering public works identified by LGUs in furtherance of coastal resources management in their respective areas.

Unplanned activities:

- The DSWD's Sustainable Livelihoods Program has emerged as a strategic partner in achieving deliverables related to sustainable financing and establishment of community partnerships. Regular consultations are being held with the SLP personnel on establishing working arrangements between the project and their program, particularly in creating synergies and sharing of resources in targeting and implementing activities in overlapping project sites. One successful engagement has been through the conduct of the Balayan Bay Closed Season in December 2014, wherein DSWD funded alternative livelihood activities for displaced commercial fishworkers while the closed season was in progress.
- As part of designing incentive schemes, the Socio-Economic Assessment Tool for MPAs (SEAT) was developed. SEAT is designed to complement the existing MEAT and the proposed NEAT (Network effectiveness assessment tool) in monitoring MPAs across the country, and eventually becoming part of the criteria in recognizing and awarding the best managed MPAs in the Philippines. The development of SEAT was seen as an effective method in monitoring whether MPAs are indeed delivering socio-economic benefits to their intended beneficiaries. With an acceptable assessment tool, LGUs would now be guided in designing their MPAs, and would have greater incentive in maintaining them. After the tool was designed, SEAT was implemented initially for the shortlist of the Para el Mar Awards, as well as for TMEM sites and for all MPAs covered under VIP's BRAVO Awards. Results of this initial rollout will be analyzed for further refinement of the instrument, and eventually for replication in other ECOFISH MKBAs and institutionalization within the Para El Mar Awards scheme during the last two years of the project.
- The project provided technical guidance and supervision in designing, refining, and implementing the SEACamp in four MKBAs: Negros, Tawi-Tawi and Batangas for the regional SEACamps, and in CIG for the culminating SEACamp. Key personnel served as resource speakers, and site coordinators helped in organizing the events onsite. The camps allowed the project to showcase its initiatives.

Activities not accomplished and why:

- The drafting of business plans is contingent on the formulation of IFRM plans, including the updating of VIP and CIG IFRM plans. Since the latter activity has not yet been undertaken, business plan formulation could not commence. IFRM plan formulation is now scheduled on the third year of project implementation. Business planning will be conducted back to back with the IFRM workshops.
- Continuous lobbying was undertaken for the establishment of the Fish Fund, together with NAPC. However, advocates within NAPC had other advocacies with respect to fisheries management in the national budget, i.e. the fish landing centers and fisherfolk resettlement program. The Fish Fund, which was intended for providing regular funds for scaling up ECOFISH activities at the national level, was unfortunately sidelined. Nevertheless, the Project will continue to lobby for this Fund during the Project lifetime.

Issues and concerns:

None

Recommended courses of action:

None

5. Site-Level Year 3 Accomplishments

As mentioned earlier, the priority among the major thrusts of ECOFISH in Year 3 is putting in place interventions that will serve as building blocks for, as well as directly influence the, achievement of the final outcomes of the Project, namely: an average of 10% increase in fisheries biomass and a 10% increase in the number of people gaining employment or better employment from sustainable fisheries management. This was intensively discussed during the December 2014 and July 2015 team planning exercises and the MKBA activities are expected to reflect this.

5.1. Calamianes Island Group MKBA

Activities initiated in Year 2 included registration and licensing of fisherfolks and fishing boats and gears, revitalization of the Calamianes MPA Network, assisted partner PNP-MG in the - implementation of “Adopt-a-MPA” Project, feedback of baseline assessment results to finalize immediate fisheries management actions, enterprise development, policy review at the municipal level, and development of constituency-building strategies.

For Year 3, the Project focused on several priority areas, some of which are a continuation of interventions/achievements in Year 2, while others are activities being initiated for the first time.

These activities were chosen as they best contribute to final project objectives of 10% increase in fish biomass and 10% increase in better employment in the CIG focal area.

The table below summarizes the status (O – ongoing; C – completed) of interventions and activities in the Calamianes Island Group MKBA under the various deliverables.

Calamianes Island Group MKBA				
Project Intervention/Activity	2015			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Deliverable 1: Policy Studies on EAFM, MPA, and Climate Change				
Provide technical support in the review and drafting of local legislation and related consultations in at least 2 municipalities.		O	O	C
Deliverable 2: Toolkits, Sourcebooks, and Case Studies on EAFM, MPA, and CCA				
Provide outline and assist in drafting the case studies.	O	O	O	C
Deliverable 4: State of the Marine Resources Report				
Participate in the drafting of SMRR.	O	C		
Deliverable 5: National, Regional and Municipal EAFM Trainings Conducted				
Inter-LGU basic compliance promotion and enforcement training.	C			
Inter-LGU advanced compliance promotion and enforcement training.				C
Training on local legislation and administrative adjudication.			O	O
MPA enforcement trainings and planning workshops (10 MPAs).	O	C		
Inter-LGU operation planning on fishery law enforcement.	O	O	O	C
Training for LGU on catch monitoring.	C			
Deliverable 6: Public-Private Partnerships Supporting ECOFISH Objectives Established				
Facilitate re-orientation on values formation of People's Organization in 2 municipalities.	C			
Conduct leadership, EAFM and gender sensitivity training.		C		
Organize the launching of 700DALOY.			O	O
Deliverable 7: Bio-physical, Social and Economic Baseline Assessments of the 8 MKBAs				
Coordinate hiring of enumerators; meetings with local officials, POs, and NGOs in preparation for the biophysical and socio-economic monitoring.	O	C		
Provide administrative and technical assistance to the team in the conduct of biophysical and socio-economic monitoring.	O	C		
Conduct benchmarking and enforcement assessment exercises.	C			
Deliverable 8: Scientific Studies on Select MKBA-Specific Fish Species				
Facilitate collection of secondary information for the species-specific or gear-specific scientific studies.	O	O	C	
Review and refine existing document (from the FISH Project) on the viability of mariculture species and mitigation measures for mariculture activities.		O	O	C
Deliverable 9: MPA Network Analyses in the Eight MKBAs				
Facilitate strengthening of MPA management committees.				
Assist in providing technical assistance, coaching and mentoring for the administration of MEAT.		C		

Organize training on MPA baseline assessment and actual assessment for non-priority MPAs.			O	O
Assist in the identification and hiring of service provider under SAF for the MPA network.	O	C		
Provide technical assistance during MPA Network meetings.		C		
Facilitate the finalization of the Calamianes MPA network by-laws.	O	C		
Facilitate various meetings with MPA management councils including updating of MPA management plan and re-organization of MPA management council (continuing activity).	O	O	O	O
Deliverable 10: Fisheries Management Plans of Select Inter-LGU Alliances in the Eight MKBAs				
Conduct training and writeshop on formulation of Marine Spatial Plan document.	C			
Review/amendment of fishery ordinance of 2 municipalities.				O
Assist in the organization or strengthening of enforcement teams of the LGUs.	O	O	O	O
Identify a service provider under SAF to provide technical and/or legal support to strengthen the municipal teams.		O	O	O
Review and refine CIG Inter-LGU fisheries management plan.			C	
Deliverable 11: Registry of Users of Municipal Fishing Waters Established in Select Municipal LGUs in the 8 MKBAs				
Monitor the FishR activity in four municipalities.	O	O	O	C
Monitor the implementation of fishing boat registration.	O	O	O	C
Deliverable 12: Revenue Generation System for Fisheries Management Established and Effectively Implemented in Select LGUs				
Coordinate meetings with local officials, POs, local NGOs, and other stakeholders in preparation for the workshop and consultation on revenue generation system.	C			
Provide technical and administrative assistance in the development of TTCIA user fee scheme.	C			
Provide technical and administrative assistance in the development of resort development fees in Busuanga, Culion and Linapacan.		C		
Deliverable 13: Sustainable Financing Programs for EAFM Implemented in Select LGUs in the 8 MKBAs				
Provide technical assistance in the development of at least 2 proposals/ concept notes on enterprise development.	C			
Provide technical and administrative assistance in the conduct of economic value chain studies on sea cucumber.			C	
Assist in identifying and hiring of research assistant for value chain study.	C			
Organize business planning workshop focusing on the translation of Calamianes Integrated Fisheries Management Plan (CIFMP) into business plan.			O	O
Conduct market planning workshop.			O	O
Provide technical and administrative support to the team conducting fiberglass boat mold making training.	C			

Provide technical and administrative support to the team conducting NetWorks survey.	C			
Provide assistance in identifying and hiring of enumerators.	C			

Highlights of Key Site-Level Activities/Accomplishments:

- As part of social preparation for enterprise development particularly in areas of the Tagbanua tribe, ECOFISH initiated the discussion with the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) and Tagbanua leaders in securing its Free and Prior-Informed Consent (FPIC). ECOFISH Project and NCIP agreed to hold its validation meeting with the Tagbanuas after the sharing of results of NCIP's IPS validation activity. The activities for validation include the proposal to enhance their user fee scheme and the AMPA project of the PNP-MG. Validation meeting with NCIP for FPIC in Coron Island was conducted on January 13, 2015 and resulted in approval of FPIC.
- ECOFISH co-organized and facilitated the Calamian Island Group MPA Network (CMN) meeting on 07 October 2014. The regular meeting was attended by the MPA management council chairmen/managers and secretary, representatives from Municipal Agriculture Office, SB and academe. The Network's Vision, Mission and Goals were reviewed and by-laws were drafted. The document was presented to the body during their annual assembly meeting for approval.
- For the first half of Year 3, ECOFISH commenced the Value Chain Analysis (VCA) study for sea cucumber in CIG. Reconnaissance which include collection of preliminary information on numbers and locations of actors, finalization of study area and identification of logistical requirements were all done in October 2014, while actual gathering of data through focus group discussions and key informant interviews in Busuanga, Coron, Culion and Linapacan was completed in March 2015. Data encoding and analysis were conducted in April 2015 through a writeshop.
- A partnership between ZSL-Philippines and ECOFISH Project was initiated in August 2014 to equip the community with right knowledge and skills on mangrove reforestation and rehabilitation concept which will be done by training selected community members. The training course is part of the preparatory activity for Mangrove rehabilitation and reforestation project in Culion with approved budget from DSWD through its Cash for Building Livelihood Assets (CBLA) amounting to nearly PhP1.6 Million. The Mangrove and Beach Forest Training Course was conducted in October 2014 with financial support from Christian Aid, USAID- ECOFISH Project, DSWD, Partnership of Philippine Support Services Agencies (PHILSSA), Palawan Advocates for Good Governance and Empowerment (PAGE), and Municipal LGU of Culion.



(left photo) ECOFISH site coordinator giving lecture on mangrove assessment and rehabilitation (right photo) ECOFISH staff explaining the different species of mangroves and key points in identifying the species.

- Organized and facilitated the drafting of MSP document through a writeshop. Representatives from three (3) municipalities of Coron, Busuanga and Linapacan attended the activity in October 2014 at Busuanga Island Paradise resort, Coron, Palawan. Zoning guidelines were reviewed and basic outline for the MSP document was constructed. At the end of the activity, the participants agreed on the schedule of activities toward finalization of the MSP document.
- Banking on the results of the organizational diagnosis of partner POs in CIG conducted in July 2014, ECOFISH facilitated a series of leadership trainings, strategic planning workshops and gender sensitivity trainings with POs in Culion, Busuanga and Coron in October 2014, through March 2015. To date, ECOFISH has been assisting 21 POs: 2 in Coron, 10 in Busuanga and 9 in Culion. These POs have already formulated their Vision, Mission and Goals and have developed their 3-year plan. However, there are areas of concern that need attention such as having clear financial system and capacity building for the organization to effectively implement projects.
- ECOFISH facilitated the finalization of water use zone maps and marine spatial plan in Calamianes Island Group. The activities were held in November 2014. The water use zonation is a management tool or regulatory mechanism that is being conducted in the municipality to address the issues arising from the multiple use of water bodies by different stakeholders. Allowed and prohibited uses and activities in the water use zone were tackled in the discussion. The validated water zonation map and marine spatial plan will be integrated in the Comprehensive Land and Water Use Plan (CLWUP) of the municipalities.
- As part of coaching and mentoring assistance with municipal enforcement teams, ECOFISH facilitated the drafting of Enforcement Operation Plans in the municipalities of Linapacan and Culion in November 2014. The planning workshops were participated by PNP, PCG, SB Members, MPDO, BFARMC, MFI and MDRRMO. Participants from different offices provided updates of their enforcement activities and shared experiences on enforcement. In Linapacan, enforcement teams identified some of the critical areas, namely: San Miguel, Maroyogroyog, Pical and Nangalao, they said that illegal fishing activities are all-year round and fishers from municipalities of Mindoro, Batangas, and Pale are suppliers of blasting caps used in dynamite fishing. In Culion, the team identified and marked operation of commercial

fishing vessels in Binudac and they expressed amendment of Executive Order (EO) Bantay Culion to include other players like pearl farms and private sector in the municipality.

- The project conducted Fish Catch Monitoring Training in November 2014 in Culion. Sixteen (16) individuals were trained on different sampling methodologies, fish classification and fishing gear and vessel inventory. The participants were composed of representatives from Coron, Linapacan, Culion and Busuanga. After the training, eleven (11) enumerators and one (1) encoder were hired by the project to conduct the fish catch monitoring. Consolidation and encoding of fish landing data and fisheries inventory is currently ongoing.
- The Project attended and facilitated the IEC for communities of Brgy. Plaza, San Miguel, Linapacan in November 2014. Moreover, ECOFISH provided project orientation to BSc Fisheries students in Linapacan.
- The site team assisted WWF Philippines through their Bancas for the Philippines project in the conduct of a survey of over 60 trainees and beneficiaries in Calamianes Island Group in November 2014. The survey is part of the monitoring and evaluation process which aims to determine whether the project has truly contributed to restoring food security and increasing resilience to climate change impacts. Survey responses were analyzed and reports are already available.
- ECOFISH staff attended the Marine Turtle and Dugong orientation workshop organized by Palawan Provincial Government and DENR in November 2014.
- The site team coordinated the visit of the USAID Governance and Coastal Marine Management Specialist in Coron in December 2014. The visit was an opportunity for both USAID and project partners for dialogue on marine protected area initiatives, fish catch monitoring and other ECOFISH interventions.
- ECOFISH in partnership with Calamianes Island Group MPA Network (CMN) organized the CIG MPA network training-workshop: Building Gender Sensitive Leaders in January 2015 at Barangay Guadalupe, Coron, Palawan. The training-workshop was attended by more than 60 representatives from the four municipalities. The training-workshop was divided into three parts. The first part was devoted to the reporting of the status of the MPAs in their respective areas, and sharing of experiences in managing these areas. The representatives also did a self-evaluation of their MPAs using MEAT to determine their current levels. Ten CMN members underwent the management assessment, 6 MPAs achieved a Level 0, 3 MPAs achieved Level 1 and only 1 MPA achieved Level 4. The Network of protected areas attributed the lower rating to super typhoon Yolanda that hit CIG in the last quarter of 2013, majority of the MPA infrastructures were ruined by the natural calamity and implementation of other MPA activities were hindered. Nevertheless, it is good to note that there is an increase of level of management efforts in 2014 which range from very good to excellent compared to the result of MEAT in 2013 ranging from fair to very good. The second part of the training-workshop was validation of Network's constitution and bylaws to lay-out roles and responsibilities of the members of the network. Criteria for selecting members were also discussed and issues and concerns on how the Network will move forward were highlighted. The last part of the CMN training-workshop was the leadership and gender sensitivity training. In this session, MPA leaders were provided with basic understanding on critical and reflective thinking abilities of a leader, basic knowledge on responsible decision-making, and personal accountability. The participants were taught on how they should demonstrate sensitivity in perceiving existing gender issues and inequalities in the community. Recognition of the

differing situations and needs of women and men and consider them in every action or decision they make was emphasized in the training.

- Provided administrative and technical support in the identification and hiring of socio economic enumerators for the project's Year 3 monitoring. Orientation-seminar was conducted in January 2015. Ten enumerators were employed to administer the survey for 300 targeted respondents. The survey concluded in February 2015. Data collected was encoded and processed for presentation to stakeholders.
- ECOFISH in partnership with the Municipality of Coron facilitated the orientation of FARMC and election of Municipal Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Management Council (MFARMC), the project also provided lecture on amended Fisheries Code in March 2015. This activity was followed by the oath taking ceremony of the newly elected MFARMC officers administered by the Municipal Mayor.
- The municipality of Coron is the only LGU in Calamianes Island Group MKBA with no Municipal Fishery Ordinance. ECOFISH provided legal assistance to the municipality in drafting of comprehensive fishery and coastal management ordinance in March 2015. Recognizing the role of FARMC as advisory body in coastal and fisheries management, the draft ordinance was then first presented to the council for review and appropriate recommendations. As a follow on activity, consultation meeting with Bagnet operators was conducted on September 2015 to solicit comments on the draft fisheries and coastal ordinance.
- The site team facilitated gathering of secondary information for user fee and revenue operation system study from January to March 2015.
- Meeting with BFAR Region 4B Quick Response Team (QRT) for Northern Palawan on January 2015 was held to orient them about ECOFISH project and identify potential activities for collaboration that will lead towards strengthening of Municipal Enforcement teams in CIG.
- In support to post-Yolanda recovery program, WWF-Philippines in partnership with ECOFISH organized the Train the trainers on fiberglass boat making on March 2015. The training was aimed to support resilience building and future typhoon recovery by creating a pool of trainers that can be tapped by WWF-Philippines and other organizations for future fiberglass banca making activities. Eight participants who successfully completed the banca-making and mold-making training activities and fulfilled their contracts were invited to participate in the training.
- To improve compliance in various MPAs in CIG, ECOFISH in partnership with PNP Maritime Group organized the MPA Guard Training and Operation Planning Workshops in March 2015 in Coron and Linapacan. A total of 65 MPA leaders from 10 MPAs participated in the training-workshop. The model used for MPA enforcement is the Blue Guards Training Program (BGTP) where the candidates are being trained likened to security guards instead of quasi-police officers. The training was divided into 6 major topics, preventing, detecting, reporting and recording are primarily duties of the guards and when it becomes necessary, responding and disposing maybe employed as a quasi-policing function.
- The site team provided technical assistance to the commissioned consultant for the review and refinement of CIG Fisheries Management plan.
- The site team provided technical assistance in the development of 2 proposals on enterprise development for TTCIA entitled (1) Ecofees-Tagbanua: Enhancing collection of fees for the

ecological sustainability of the Tagbanua CADT which was submitted to GEF-Small Grant Programmes that aims to build the capacity of TTCIA in addressing organizational, financial and external challenges of implementing ADSDPP programs and projects that support biodiversity conservation, livelihood and sustainable tourism, and (2) *Pagpapanumbalik ng bakawan, Pagpapataba ng alimango at pagpapatayo ng souvenir shop* (Mangrove Reforestation, Crab-fattening and establishment of souvenir shop) focusing on mangrove restoration and providing income diversification for the community of TTCIA (the latter proposal was submitted to SAMDHANA Institute).

- Scoping and data gathering activities for the Social Enterprise Development and establishment of user fees were conducted in Coron, Culion and Busuanga on April to June 9, 2015. The important findings/outputs are as follows:
 - 1) Various initiatives are simultaneously being planned in CIG geared toward livelihood development for Typhoon Yolanda victims. NAPC, PHILSSA and the CIDA-funded LGSP are all potential partners for the enterprise development work to be initiated by ECOFISH;
 - 2) NAPC would like to ensure that the re-settled families will be among the target beneficiaries of the enterprise development;
 - 3) The TTCIA plans to open new tourist sites, which shall be subjected to user fees;
 - 4) Culion officials requested ECOFISH assistance in setting up procedures and a system for collecting tourism entrance fees, which they intend to charge to every visitor that visits Culion for tourism and recreational purposes. The LGU has likewise assigned a specific MPA for snorkeling and diving, and a mangrove park that offers a 4 km stretch of mangrove area that is ideal for mangrove walks and kayaking.
 - 5) Numerous livelihood projects have already been set up in Culion. Instead of introducing new social enterprises, ECOFISH offered to conduct an inventory of past livelihood projects and to study which ones could be revived by addressing the implementation gaps and limitations, as long as they fall within the Project's objectives and deliverables.
 - 6) Business proposals for (a) mud-crab fattening and (b) a Busuanga river cruise that were developed during the ECOFISH business planning workshop were submitted, and subsequently approved by the Regional Director of the DSWD-SLP in Busuanga. During a meeting with partners, ECOFISH agreed to facilitate the provision of technical assistance for the mud crab fattening (following EAFM principles).
 - 7) The LGU of Coron expressed appreciation of ECOFISH's offer to undertake a WTP survey among tourists in CIG. The results of the WTP survey will be used to update a planned environmental fee that is initially pegged at PHP 200.
- ECOFISH provided inputs to the NAPC-led writeshop for proposals conducted last April 2015 in Culion, Palawan. The proposals were submitted to the DSWD's CBLA and are meant to provide livelihood alternatives to fishers affected by Typhoon Yolanda,



NAPC-led writeshop in collaboration with PHILSSA-PAGE & DSWD at Safari Lodge, Culion last April 30, 2015.

particularly those who availed the relocation program of the government.

- ECOFISH provided technical inputs during the Balisungan MPA (BMPA) management council meeting last April 2015. In this meeting, the PNP Maritime Group (PNP-MG) presented the Adopt an MPA (AMPA) Project, which was subsequently endorsed by the council through a resolution. The PNP-MG will help the BMPA through fisheries enforcement and provision of assistance to MPA Guards. Other important agreements from the meeting include the immediate conduct of an ocular inspection to the site to locate its boundaries and the finalization of the BMPA management plan.
- The Siete Pecados Marine Park (SPMP) management plan was reviewed and updated. Key updates in the plan include the establishment of a ticketing and collection system, enforcement of a color-coding system for mooring buoys and markers, the prohibition of fish feeding in the marine park, reproduction and distribution of SPMP management plans to all concerned agencies, conduct of regular briefings to the guests prior to entering the park, and the creation of a permanent position for the Park Manager. ECOFISH introduced the business planning method to the SPMP management and LGUs whereby revenues and expenditures from park management activities can be estimated.
- The Enforcement Operational Plan (OPLAN) and Executive Order issued by the Municipal Mayor of Culion were reviewed. Key agreements from the review include the identification of new team members who are pro-active in implementing the laws and an amendment of the Executive Order to improve its effectiveness against illegal fishing in the area.
- ECOFISH staff attended the stakeholder meeting conducted by MFI and Brgy. Officials of Libis, Culion in April 2015 to determine investments given by NGOs in support of the MPA and seal possible support and interventions at Bugor Island Sand MPA.
- ECOFISH presented the draft Marine Spatial Plan (MSP) to the Technical Working Group (TWG) of Coron in April 2015. Information gaps were identified while other sections of the plan were finalized. The final MSP will be included in the Comprehensive Land and Water Use Plan of the municipality.



Presentation of OPLAN with Bantay Dagat-Culion at Tabing Dagat Lodge on April 13, 2015.

- ECOFISH project commenced its study on Estimating the Recreational Value of Ecosystems in CIG in April 2015. The study aims to estimate the tourism value of CIG's coastal and marine resources, as well as the tourists' willingness to pay (WTP) for user fees, which in turn will be used to finance the management of the resources. Six enumerators were trained and employed for this study. The WTP covered the following types of visitors: (a) divers in Coron sites, (b) non divers in Coron Sites, (c) visitors to Culion sites and (d) visitors to Busuanga sites. Surveys were conducted at tourist entry and exit points (e.g. airports, piers) and during boat trips. The results from the WTP survey will provide basis for



USAID Mission Director luncheon meeting with LGU Coron (left) and Interaction with TTCIA leaders last May 8, 2015 (right).

drafting/updating the LGUs' respective Environmental and/or Tourism Codes, as well as in establishing their environmental fees.

- USAID Mission Director Gloria Steele visited CIG MKBA on May 8, 2015. The visit provided context of USAID's assistance in implementing sustainable fisheries management in CIG. The USAID Mission Director's dialogue meeting with NCIP and TTCIA representatives provided an overview of the Coron Island CADT and its eco-tourism experiences and plans. The Mission Director was particularly interested in how their user fees are being managed and disbursed. The Mission Director and USAID representatives were toured around some existing ecotourism sites in Coron Island, including a future tourism site. After Coron Island's visits, a luncheon meeting was held with Coron LGU



(Left) ECOFISH assisting the LGUs of Coron and Culion during the Enforcement action planning workshop and (Right) Training Participants during ECAN Board and Enforcement Training

representatives. Vice Mayor Pe introduced some of his planned programs that aimed to boost tourism in Coron, at the same time address environmental problems brought about by increased tourist traffic. He further outlined potential programs for alternative livelihoods for fisherfolk that can help wean them away from destructive fishing methods, in the hope that ECOFISH can provide support. SB Yuri talked about Coron's experiences in establishing MPAs and the MPA network in CIG, all of which are being assisted by USAID through the former FISH project and the current ECOFISH project. MD Gloria Steele mentioned existing USAID programs that can provide additional assistance to the LGU, particularly the COMPETE project which aims to unlock public resources to boost infrastructure development that will spur economic growth.

- In May 2015, ECOFISH staff attended the coordination meeting with LGU-Culion, PHILSSA-PAGE, NAPC, MHO, MSWD, MDRRMO, and KALAHI-CIDDS. The purpose of the meeting was to map the livelihood interventions of different supporting sectors in the municipality of Culion. At the end of the meeting, the participating body agreed to conduct regular meetings every last Friday of the month for the LGU to be regularly updated and to avoid overlapping or replication of programs.



Posting of IEC materials during SaKaragatan Festival

- An Environmental Critical Areas Network (ECAN) Board and Enforcement training was conducted last May 2015. The training was organized by Palawan Council for Sustainable Development Staff (PCSDS) with funding support from USAID-DOI. Participants of the training were ECAN board members from 4 municipalities. One of the important outputs of the training is the agreement to form the Calamianes Law Enforcement Network which will be formalized through an MOU.

- In May 2015, ECOFISH participated in the Sa Karagatan Festival in Busuanga. The Festival is a tribute to farmers and fisherfolks of Busuanga. It is a call for the unity of the people who worked hard to produce agricultural and fisheries products. The project displayed IEC materials during the event, participated on judging of float and food fest competition.



ECOFISH Community Relations Specialist giving lecture on Mainstreaming Gender Responsiveness in Project Development and Management

- A 5-day MPA habitat monitoring assessment in the three priority MPAs was conducted in May 2015. The data generated from the assessment of coral reef and fisheries within and outside the MPAs will be utilized to determine ECOFISH Project result indicators. MPA wardens and local government officials participated in the activity.

- ECOFISH attended the LGU Business Planning Workshop for Workforce Development and presented ECOFISH project updates to partners in May 2015.
- ECOFISH co-organized a Gender Sensitivity Training (GST), 2016 GAD Planning and Budgeting (GPB) and Gender Mainstreaming of Ecosystem-based approaches for sustainable fisheries management into the GPB and local development plans.
- ECOFISH provided support to the SEACamp Culminating activity in partnership with Save Philippine Seas (SPS). Ten representatives from each region were chosen based on the marine and coastal conservation project proposals they pitched to a panel of mentors at the end of each regional SEACamp.



Signing of Siete Pecados Marine Park Management Plan witnessed by the regional media, Dr. Angel Alcala, *National Scientist*, Joe Foltz, *USAID Deputy Chief, Office of Environment, Energy and Climate Change* and Nygiel Armada, *ECOFISH Deputy Chief of Party*

- The site team provided coordination support during a US Embassy Regional Media seminar in June 2015. During this event, ceremonial signing of Siete Pecados Marine Park was done which was witnessed by media participants and the National scientist, Dr. Angel Alcala. ECOFISH also facilitated the tour of participants to SPMP and Coron Island.
- The project hosted the visit of Director for Economic Growth Office in USAID's Bureau for Europe and Eurasia, Jerry Bisson and USAID's Division Director Dani Newcomb and COR Rebecca Guieb in June 2015. Series of meetings with partners from LGUs of Culion and Coron, TTCIA, the Fiberglass Makers' Association and SPMP Manager were arranged. The



Visit of Jerry Bisson, Director for Economic Growth Office USAID Bureau for Europe and Eurasia. Meeting with Culion LGU officials (left), meeting with Siete Pecados Marine Park Manager (middle), and interaction with IP leaders in Coron Island (right).

meetings discussed learnings from FISH project and how its efforts were continued in the current ECOFISH project.

- ECOFISH continues to provide support to the Mangrove Reforestation Project in Culion covering 6 barangays as a member of the Project Management Team (PMT). Three Hundred (300) families of the municipality participated in the planting activities wherein 240,000 mangrove seedlings were planted over 47 hectares of denuded mangrove area due to rampant cutting of trees for charcoal making. The PMT conducted a monitoring activity in the re-planted sites, and found that approximately 80-90% of the mangrove seedlings have been steadily growing. Although there are still reports of mangrove cutting in the sites, the beneficiaries mostly expressed hope that the seedlings they have planted will secure their livelihoods in the future.
- Siete Pecados Marine Park was chosen as one of the 16 finalists among 153 applicants in the Galing Pook Awards (GPA) 2015. ECOFISH provided technical assistance to LGU-Coron in the preparation of application documents, during site validation activities and preparation of presentation during panel interview. The Marine Park is one of the numerous MPAs in the country being supported by USAID ECOFISH Project. Although the marine park was not able to bag the award, this competition brought inspiration to the Local Government Unit of Coron to further promote empowerment, innovation and sustainability of MPA program in the municipality.



- ECOFISH provided legal assistance during a meeting with Busuanga key LGU officials in June 2015 in support of the marine spatial planning. As a result, a draft zoning ordinance was developed patterned after other ECOFISH sites that are already ahead in the MSP. Important data gaps were likewise identified, including CADT of Calauit, water lease of RRW, pearl farm application of Hikari, and the complete area of the capture fisheries zone. As a follow up activity, draft zoning ordinance was presented to the members of Sangguniang Bayan committee on Agriculture and fisheries in August 2015 for review.

- In August 2015, USAID through ECOFISH Project joined the Samdhana Institute and Tribe of Tagbanua in Coron Island Association (TTCIA) in facilitating a mangrove assessment and rehabilitation training for Tagbanua women and youth in Coron. Fourteen Tagbanua women and youth from Coron Island participated in the activity. The trained community members will rehabilitate the mangrove area in Barangay Cabugao, Coron Island, estimated to cover 5 hectares. Barangay Cabugao is part of a 24,520.75674-hectare Tagbanua ancestral domain that the community has been managing since 1998. Rehabilitating the mangroves is part of the preparatory work for enterprise development that will be provided by the project for TTCIA. The training was followed by a community orientation and monitoring also in August 2015 to discuss the role and responsibilities of the beneficiaries and leaders of the mangrove rehabilitation activity.
- The Inter-LGU advanced compliance and enforcement training and operation planning on



(left photo) Marlito Guidote, ECOFISH Project Deputy Chief of Party, facilitating the Inter-LGU Operation Planning workshop together with members of Municipal Enforcement Teams; (right photo) Select members of Municipal Enforcement Team from 4 municipalities with PNNI para-enforcers during their simulation exercise.

fishery law enforcement was conducted in September 2015 for Municipal Enforcement Teams of Culion, Coron, Busuanga and Linapacan. Twenty-nine participants attended the training including representatives from Philippine National Police (PNP) and Municipal Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (MFARMC). Some of the key highlights of the training are: (1) an interim Inter-LGU enforcement team was formed and demonstrated capability to conduct law enforcement operation, they apprehended commercial fishing vessel using fine mesh net and active gear and municipal fishing boat possessing dynamite or noxious substance during their simulation exercise, (2) a consensus to form a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for a unified enforcement between the 4 municipalities, and other agencies such as BFAR, PNP Maritime Group, Coast Guard, PCSD and the PNNI, and (3) venue to share learnings and experiences on how to carry out lawful arrest, search and seizure and insights on how to present a criminal case based on a strong evidence with special participation from members of the BFAR Quick Response Team, PCSDS and prosecutor. After the training, enforcement mentoring for selected members of Municipal Enforcement Teams from Coron and Busuanga was conducted in September 2015.

- ECOFISH facilitated the consultation meeting with Technical Working Groups of Busuanga and Coron, NCIP and PCSDS regarding the Marine Spatial Zoning Plans (MSPs) of the two municipalities on September 28, 2015. The meeting provided an opportunity to review the provision in Environmentally Critical Area Network (ECAN) Guidelines on coastal and marine areas and compared it to the draft water uses and activity guidelines presented by the

two municipalities. The ECAN, the main strategy of the Strategic Environmental Plan for Palawan Act (RA7611), is a graded system of protection and development control over the whole of Palawan. Towards the end of the meeting, the group agreed to conduct onsite validations and consultation meetings with stakeholders to finalize the water uses and activity guidelines in the marine and coastal water zones in October 2015.

- Assisted the Balisungan MPA management council in the review and update of MPA management plan in July 2015. Important updates of the plan included re-formulation of Vision, Mission and Goal, defining the MPA management organization and structure and formulation of 5-year action plan. The plan was adopted on July 18, 2015 by the Balisungan MPA management council through Resolution No.01-2015.
- ECOFISH co-sponsored and provided project inputs during the two-day workshop entitled “Resilient Seas For An Ensured Future: A Stakeholder’s Workshop on Putting Knowledge Into Action For Palawan Coastal/Marine Areas (CMA)” in August 2015 conducted by Palawan Council for Sustainable Development in partnership with World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Philippines, and Malampaya Foundation Inc. The workshop was attended by more than 75 participants from the national government, local government units, non-governmental organizations and the academe. At the end of the workshop, the participants were able to compile CMA initiatives and concentration area map for Palawan and validate the Palawan MPA efforts database. ECOFISH staff was selected as one of the members of the technical working group to finalize (a) Palawan CMA 5-year Medium Term Road Map (2016-2020), (b) a PCSD adoptable Palawan MPA Network Plan, and (c) a Palawan CMA situation briefer to be submitted to UNESCO.
- ECOFISH project, together with the Asian Institute of Management (AIM) conducted a workshops on financial management and bookkeeping last August to September 2015 for selected fisherfolk groups in the Calamianes Island Group. Selected board members of the Tagbanua Tribe of Coron Island Association (TTCIA) requested for the training to better manage their revenues from entrance fees collected from tourist attractions located within their ancestral domain. Other participants included CORDAID-assisted fisherfolk POs located in Buenavista, Tara, Malawig and Banuang Daan, all of whom have set up market hubs for rice, fuel and drug retailing that aim to lower consumer prices for their residents. All participating barangays were heavily hit by typhoon Yolanda last December 2013. This first phase covered basic concepts in bookkeeping and basic accounting entries. The second phase include topics on profit and loss, cash flow, and financial management while the third phase, scheduled in October 2015, is exclusive session with TTCIA to document their Financial Management System.



Engr. Michael Fababier, Coron MPDC Staff, presenting the water use zonation and activity guidelines during consultation meeting on September 28, 2015 with TWG, PCSDS and NCIP

- The ECOFISH site team provided coordination assistance and documentary requirements with Sustainable Development Solutions (SDS) Corporation, a USAID contractor, for the Midterm Performance Evaluation of the ECOFISH Project on September 14-16, 2015.
- As part of ECOFISH technical assistance to individual members of Calamaines MPA Network, the project facilitated the mapping of the proposed expansion site Siete Pecados marine park and reconfiguration Balisungan MPA boundaries on September 26, 2015. The output of the mapping exercise will be used for the amendments of MPA ordinances.
- ECOFISH Project staffs serve as resource persons during EAFM and Orientation and Planning workshop on September 2015. The two-day activity was funded and organized by Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and participated by the fisherfolks, barangay council of Bintuan and MPA management council of Bintuan Marine Park. The workshop served as venue to review and update the MPA management plan of the marine park and visit the Siete Pecados Marine Park, a Galing Pook Award finalist 2015.



Atty Estrella Menchavez from Asian Institute Management giving lecture on financial management to the bookkeeper and elders of TTCIA.

Unplanned Activities:

- ECOFISH participated in the Rapid Land Use Assessment for Busuanga Island Chain Masterplan Workshop organized and facilitated by the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP) in partnership with Municipality of Coron in January 2015. The workshop was aimed to identify land uses in the Busuanga Island Chain and the issues, threats and challenges being faced by the following geographic areas: Forest/Pasture reserve, Coastal Island Groups, Ancestral Domain and Agriculture.
- ECOFISH staff met with SARAGPUNTA leaders in January 2015 to discuss the MOA between FISH project and their organization. During the meeting, SARAGPUNTA expressed interest to reactivate the written task and responsibilities of both parties specifically on marine conservation. The latter requested assistance from ECOFISH in the establishment of Marine Interpretative Centre located at Tindeng Island, Culion with the following purposes: (1) Display center for all native (terrestrial and marine) products even their gears/paraphernalia used for fishing; (2) Training/educational center for 22 IP communities from Coron, Culion and Busuanga; (3) The medium (language) that will be taught on their curriculum is their own dialect (Tagbanua); and (4) Showcase center of all traditional activities (dance, rituals, etc.).
- Regular participation in the Technical Working Group Committee on livelihood in the Municipality of Coron to provide technical support.

- In February 2015, the site team facilitated the visit of USAID Director for Regional Office of Acquisition and Assistance and his staff, the COR, and ECOFISH DCOP to CIG MKBA. The visit provided opportunity to meet LGU partners in Coron and discussed project updates.
- ECOFISH called for a roundtable discussion with FAO, PHILSSA and SAMDANA on February 6, 2015 to improve coordination and discuss potential collaboration on MPA assistance in CIG. The meeting resulted in mapping of MPA activities and intervention in the whole CIG.
- Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) sought the assistance of ECOFISH to facilitate the validation process of compliance to full disclosure policy in the municipalities of Coron and Culion in March 2015. The process is being conducted as part of efforts of the DILG and the National Government to ensure transparency and accountability among LGUs, consistent with the spirit and requirements of DILG Memorandum Circular 2010-083 entitled Full Disclosure of Local Budget and Finances, and Bids and Public Offerings, which was subsequently adopted as a requirement in the General Appropriations Act.
- The team provided coordination support to SEA Camp organizer from February to March 2015 in preparation for the culminating activity of the camp that will be conducted on June 10-14, 2015. The SEA (Sea and Earth Advocates) Camp, a project of Save Philippine Seas (SPS), in partnership with US embassy, aims to gather 90 of the most promising Filipino youth who have potential to be leaders in the field of marine conservation. Prior to the culminating camp will be three regional camps with 30 participants each: one in Luzon (Batangas), Visayas (Negros Oriental), and Mindanao (Tawi-Tawi). Coron, Palawan, one of the municipalities in CIG MKBA, has been chosen as the site for the culminating SEA Camp because it is among the top coastal and marine tourism destinations, not just in the Philippines but worldwide.
- ECOFISH Attended coordination meeting organized by NAPC and DSWD on March 27, 2015. The meeting provided venue for NGOs and projects like ECOFISH to share and discuss initiatives and experiences in implementing fisheries and livelihood programs in CIG. Towards the end of the meeting, potential collaborations were identified and commitments from participants were solicited.
- ECOFISH Project site team provided lecture on the amended fisheries code of the Philippines for select sections of RA 10654 and Harmful Marine Species as part of the sea awareness campaign conducted by the Coron Licensed Tour Guides Associations (CLTGA) on August 23, 2015 at Kawayanan Heights, Coron. The main objective of this event was to discuss the different harmful marine species, and provisions and sanctions under RA 10654 which helped tour guides for better understanding. There are 180 licensed tour guides who attended the said event and most of them are newly licensed.

Activities not accomplished and why:

- Fish Examiners Training has been postponed indefinitely as the BFAR Head Office is reviewing the content of the module.
- NetWorks Survey was cancelled in CIG due to minimal supply of trash nets in the area and it will not be cost effective.
- The drafting of business plans is contingent on updating of IFRM plans. Since the latter activity has not yet been completed, business plan formulation could not commence.

- Training on MPA Baseline Assessment and actual assessment for non-priority MPAs was postponed due to difficulty in finding service contractor.

Issues and concerns:

- Social Enterprise Development and Sustaining the CIG MPA Network and establishment of additional MPAS will be significantly pivotal in the overall project goal of increasing fish stock and improve livelihood in the Calamianes Island Group MKBA. However, these will be funded through the Special Activities Fund (SAF) where the process of calling for proposals and awarding of contracts have taken a lot of time.

Recommended courses of action:

- Although this was finally awarded towards the last quarter of Year 3 it is still highly recommended that the SAF awarding process should be improved.

5.2. Danajon Reef MKBA

Majority of target deliverables in Year 1 and 2 for Danajon Reef were achieved and completed. However, some of the planned activities were delayed due to the 7.2 magnitude earthquake that struck Bohol last 15 October 2013 and Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan) on 08 November of the same year. Those engagements will be fast tracked on the 4th quarter of Year 2 and carried over to Year 3. Moreover, site interventions contributing directly to achievement of final project outcomes will be prioritized during Year 3.

The table below summarizes the status (O – ongoing; C – completed) of interventions and activities in the Danajon Reef MKBA under the various deliverables.

Danajon Reef MKBA				
Project Intervention/Activity	2015			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Deliverable 1: Policy Studies on EAFM, MPA, and Climate Change				
Facilitate the approval of the revised fishery code (Tubigon).	C			
Deliverable 2: Toolkits, Sourcebooks, and Case Studies on EAFM, MPA, and CCA				
Assist in the identification and development of proposed case study.	O	O	O	O
Deliverable 4: State of the Marine Resources Report				
Participate in the drafting of SMRR.	O	C		
Deliverable 5: National, Regional and Municipal EAFM Trainings Conducted				
Conduct training for the Adjudication Board (Tubigon).	O	O	O	O
Conduct training on adjudication and legislation (Bohol and Leyte).		O	O	O
Conduct in house training for need assessment for regional QRT (Bohol).	O	O	O	O
Climate change impact and vulnerability assessment training (Bohol and Leyte).				O

Conduct MEAT training and validation for existing MPAs (Leyte and former FISH focal sites in Bohol).	O	O		
Deliverable 6: Public-Private Partnerships Supporting ECOFISH Objectives Established				
Community partnership monitoring and mentoring (Bohol).	O	O	O	O
Conduct organizational diagnosis, strengthening and capacity-building for enterprise development (Bohol).	O	C		
Identify nominees for PPP training (Bohol).	C			
Link up with DSWD-SLP for community partnership (Bohol and Leyte).	O	O	O	O
Launching of 700DALOY (Bohol) .		O	O	O
Support in the conduct of consultation meeting with Provincial TWG on initial results of blue swimming crab assessment (Bohol).	O	O	O	C
Coordinate with the enumerator team for the ongoing monitoring and assessment of blue crab (Bohol).	O	O	O	C
Monitor performance issues and outcomes of TVWS-supported fisher folk registration.	O	O	O	C
Deliverable 7: Bio-physical, Social and Economic Baseline Assessments of the 8 MKBAs				
Coordinate hiring of enumerators; meetings with local officials, POs, and NGOs in preparation for the biophysical and socio-economic monitoring (Bohol).	O	C		
Provide administrative and technical assistance to the team in the conduct of biophysical and socio-economic monitoring (Bohol).		C		
Conduct benchmarking and enforcement assessment exercises (Bohol and Leyte).		O	O	C
Deliverable 8: Scientific Studies on Select MKBA-Specific Fish Species				
Continue collection of data on SPR for the management of blue swimming crabs in Danajon Reef.	O	O	C	
Conduct consultation with local partners on the management measures resulting from the SPR study. Start data collection to evaluate the effect of management measures.			O	C
Review and refine existing document (from the FISH Project) on the viability of mariculture species and mitigation measures for mariculture activities (Bohol).		O	O	C
Deliverable 9: MPA Network Analyses in the Eight MKBAs				
Conduct orientation/consultation on the establishment of MPAs-for areas without MPAs or need strengthening of existing MPAs (Leyte and Bohol).	O	O	O	O
Coordinate consultation with stakeholders on the selection of the MPA site (Leyte).	O	O	O	O
Facilitate the review of MPA management plans for areas with existing MPAs (Leyte and Bohol).	O	O	O	O
Facilitate strengthening of MPA management committees (Bohol and Leyte).	O	O	O	O
Provide technical assistance, coaching and mentoring for the administration of MEAT (Leyte and former FISH focal sites in Bohol).	O	C		
Provide technical assistance to focal LGUs for the formulation of MPA management plans (Bohol and Leyte).		O	O	O

Provide technical assistance to POs managing the MPAs/Fish Sanctuary in the implementation of their management plan (Bohol and Leyte).		O	O	O
Deliverable 10: Fisheries Management Plans of Select Inter-LGU Alliances in the Eight MKBAs				
Inter-LGU fisheries management planning (Bohol and Leyte).	O	O	C	
Conduct CLE assessment workshop.		C		
Provide support by training, workshop, coaching/mentoring, site visit to LGUs leading to the strengthening of CLEC program (Bohol and Leyte).	O	O	O	O
Assist in the finalization of poster development related to CLE (Bohol and Leyte).	O	O	O	O
Facilitate training of Municipal CLE teams on basic maritime law enforcement, paralegal, MPA enforcement and other specialized and advance training (Bohol and Leyte).	O	O	O	O
Identify service provider under SAF to provide technical and legal support to strengthen municipal law enforcement teams.	C			
Support and facilitate inter-LGU conference /forum/summit (Bohol).	C			
Provide technical assistance in the finalization and reproduction of completed CFRM plans of Leyte.	O	O	O	O
Support BFAR in the conduct of MFARMC strengthening and planning workshop (Bohol).	C			
Review and redraft inter-LGU fisheries management plan.	O	O	C	
Deliverable 11: Registry of Users of Municipal Fishing Waters Established in Select Municipal LGUs in the 8 MKBAs				
Conduct inventory and review of municipal fishery ordinances, executive orders, municipal fishing vessel and gear registration, permitting and licensing system (Bohol and Leyte).	O	O	O	O
Conduct orientation on the registration of fishing boats and licensing of fishing gears or fishing operations (Leyte and Bohol).		O	O	O
Consultation with partner agencies (MARINA, PNP-MG, PNP, PCG, BFAR, PAO and LGUs) on fisherfolk, fishing boat and fishing gear registration and licensing (Bohol and Leyte).	O	O	O	O
Provide technical assistance in the follow up of fisherfolk registration.	O	O	O	O
Conduct assessment workshop to determine status of municipal fishing vessel and gear registration/licensing.		O	O	O
Facilitate the conduct of training on EO 305 for municipal fishing vessel inspector training (Bohol).		O	O	C
Deliverable 12: Revenue Generation System for Fisheries Management Established and Effectively Implemented in Select LGUs				
Coordinate meetings with local officials, POs, local NGOs and other stakeholders in preparation for the workshop and consultation on revenue generation system.	C			
Facilitate the gathering of secondary data related to revenue generation system.	O	O	C	
Data collection on LGU revenue and expenditure.		C		

Deliverable 13: Sustainable Financing Programs for EAFM Implemented in Select LGUs in the 8 MKBAs				
Collect data on discarded nets in Danajon Reef (Bohol and Leyte).	?			
Workshop on translation of IFRM plans into a business plans.				C
Identification of research assistant for value chain studies.	C			
Assist in the conduct of value chain studies training.	C			
Identify NGO partner for enterprise development.	O	O	O	O
Fish for Bohol activities.			O	O
Ecotourism work with COMPETE.	O	O	O	C

Highlights of Key Site-Level Activities/Accomplishment

- In partnership with MERF, the Site Coordinator participated in the workshop for drafting the State of Marine Resources Report, collected data from various sources on past studies within the Danajon Reef, and participated data validation workshop conducted by MERF in partnership with ECOFISH project in October 2014 at UP, Diliman Quezon City.
- In support of the socioeconomic component, the list of all PO/fishers organizations within the Danajon-wide areas were collected and the LGU records from calendar year 2009-2013 on revenue generation, permitting system and budget allocation to CRM, financial statement, budget expenditures were compiled.
- The site team provided technical support to the LGU of Getafe through presentation of the Fisheries Management Plan during meeting of the Municipal Development Council. The Municipal Development Council appreciated and adopted the plan.
- The Site staff assisted in the hiring and training of 12 enumerators for fish catch monitoring, monitored field activities, conducted quality assurance and quality control in order to validate the data gathered by the enumerators. The team likewise assisted other sites in the quality assurance and quality control of the fisheries data collection.
- The team also assisted in the hiring of the 12 Enumerators for the socio-economic monitoring. The training was held on January 2015 and the enumerators were deployed in selected barangays of Buenavista, Getafe, Inabanga and Tubigon. The gathering of data was completed and is now in the process of review and analyses by the Senior Resource Economist.
- As a result of the technical assistance extended by ECOFISH to the provincial government and PNP, an Executive Order No. 1 Series of 2015 was signed by Provincial Governor Edgar M. Chatto on “Strengthening and Sustaining the Coastal Monitoring and Protection Program of the Province of Bohol by Institutionalizing the Coastal Law Enforcement Councils and Providing Mechanisms for its Effective Implementation“. The Executive Order, among others, provided the mechanisms for creating the Provincial Coastal Law Enforcement Technical Working Group (PTWG), where ECOFISH is included as member of the Steering Committee. An orientation and creation of committees in the provincial level was facilitated by ECOFISH on January 19,2015.

- The site team assisted with Bohol Environment Management Office in April 2015 by organizing a meeting with the Deputy Director of PNP, Police Environment Desk Officer regarding orientation and creation of the Provincial Coastal Law Enforcement Task Force as part of the strategy in the implementation of the Executive Order 1, series of 2015 and preparation of OPLAN Kadagatan.



Coastal Law Enforcement Council (CLEC) cluster orientation and organizational meeting

- During the election of CLEC Clusters officers, ECOFISH provided inputs on the elements of the Executive Order in relation to fisheries management and enforcement.
- On May 2015, ECOFISH facilitated another meeting with the Deputy Task Force Commander, PNP Action Officer and Operation, the President of Integrated Bar of the Philippines, and representative from other agencies (PNP maritime, Coastguard, OPA, ECOFISH/BFAR, PLO and BEMO) regarding the creation of Provincial Coastal Law Enforcement Task Force (PCLETF) and the review of roles and functions of the members of different law enforcement agencies.
- After drafting the OPLAN Kadagatan, the Site Coordinator facilitated the presentation of the OPLAN during the CLEC general assembly meeting and Induction of CLEC Clusters officers. The Lawyers assigned in each cluster were introduced and the elected Chairperson of each cluster were tasked to mobilized the action plan in their respective cluster.
- The site team conducted survey of partner agencies regarding their assessment of the services rendered by the PNP Maritime Police. The result of the survey was the basis for the prioritization of the capacity building activities for the PNP Maritime Group.
- The Site Coordinator presented updates on coastal/fishery law enforcement initiatives in Danajon during meeting with CLEAR 7 in Cebu in April 2015. The conference provided an opportunity for the Quick Response Team of BFAR 7 to collaborate with other partners in terms of logistical assistance during operations. The Provincial Governor of Bohol committed to support in protecting the Danajon Double Barrier Reef and highlighted the technical assistance of ECOFISH Project particularly in conducting training and monitoring on CLE related initiatives.
- Participated inter-agency information sharing on illegal fishing and related crimes in Danajon Reef and South Negros in May 2015 at Cebu. The Director of the Regional PNP Maritime presented the concept of AMPA and reported successful apprehension made by the team. The participants explored with NAVFORCEN some credible strategy linking fishery law enforcement initiatives in the Danajon Reef areas with Cebu and South Negros.

- In support of the creation and training of the Municipal and Barangay Enforcement Team in the municipality of Inabanga, ECOFISH project Site Coordinator assisted in the finalization of training modules and served as resource speaker.
- In April 2015, ECOFISH Staff responded to the invitation from the Municipal Mayor of Tubigon for meeting of partners (Zoological Society of London , PHILDRA and Rice Watch and Action Network) implementing common development initiatives. ECOFISH staff provided inputs primarily about the conceptual framework of the project emphasizing the EAFM approach.



ECOFISH Project exhibit during the visit of the US Ambassador in Tagbilaran (05-06 February 2015)

- The local team finalized the draft of the Inter-LGU and individual LGU Fisheries Management Plan with the fisheries management team.
- In response to the request from the Economic Development Committee of National Economic Development Council Region 7, ECOFISH staff participated meeting in Cebu in June 2015 and presented the conceptual framework of ECOFISH and history of collaboration among partners including the previous projects like Coastal Resource Management project and the Fisheries Improved for Sustainable Harvest Project.
- The Site Coordinator participated in a meeting in Cebu in October 2015 regarding the Creation of the Technical Working Group that would support the Economic Development Council in development of special project for CELEBOSOLE or Danajon Double Barrier Reef Management Council. The Deputy Chief of Party of ECOFISH is the permanent member of the TWG while the Site Coordinator is his alternate.
- In partnership with the Philippine Association of Crab Processors, Inc. (PACPI) and the National Fisheries Institute (NFI) the ECOFISH team concluded the “Species Specific Assessment and Piloting of Spawning Potential Ratio Method for the Blue Swimming Crab in the Danajon Reef”. The data collection was conducted from May 2014 to May 2015 to

provide estimates of the spawning potential ratio of the blue crab that can ultimately be used as tool or reference point for managing the resource. The results were presented to BFAR, PACPI and LGU partners in June 2015. The partners agreed to a gear swap scheme to reduce and ultimately ban the use of gears catching immature blue crabs.

Coordinated/facilitated with private partners representative, PACPI, SSG/ECOFISH in the presentation on the initial results of blue swimming crab monitoring on October 13, 2014 at Talibon Interpretive Center. Actual field observation and inter-action was facilitated in one of the landing site at Barangay San Pedro of Talibon.

- The site team assisted in the conduct of site evaluation of the impact of TVWS on the on-line fishery registration in the municipalities of CPG, Ubay and Talibon. Based on the result it is most effective in the municipality of Carlos P Garcia since the TVWS provided the primary internet service in the area.
- Supervised and assisted the enumerator in the conduct of interview and data gathering for the value chain study of blue swimming crab.
- The team conducted site validation on the draft zoning plan in the municipalities of Tubigon, Clarin, Inabanga and Buenavista in June 2015 and in the municipalities of Ubay, CPG, Bien Unido, Trinidad, Talibon and Getafe in August 2015.
- The local team coordinated and assisted the University of the Philippines Visayas Foundation Inc. research team in the conduct MPA monitoring event.
- The Coastal and Fishery Resource Management plan of Bato, Matalom and Inopacan were completed ready for reproduction while that for Macrohon is in the final review stage. The draft CFRM plans of Hindang, Hilongos, Baybay City and Maasin City are still in preparation.
- In coordination with RARE the project provided technical support to the Municipality of Inabanga during the conduct of Participatory Coastal Resource Assessment.
- The site team conducted training of trainers on MPA MEAT and validation activities with provincial and municipal partners together with the MPA Management Council of all MPAs of Carlos P. Garcia and Ubay in October 2014.
- On December 2014, the team facilitated Para Legal Training for the 8 municipalities of Leyte and Southern Leyte and three municipalities of Northern Samar. The participants tackled various issues and problems regarding their enforcement operation. .
- The Site Coordinator served as resource Speaker during the conduct of re-orientation of Municipal Coastal Law Enforcement Council of the Municipality of Tubigon in November 2014.



Interview with stakeholders during the conduct of site evaluation on the impact of TW White Space used in registration of fisheries

- Assisted the Sustainable Development Solutions (SDS) in the conduct of performance evaluation of ECOFISH Project implementation. Provided support to the LGU partners in the consolidation of documents to support the evaluation.

Unplanned activities:

- Assisted USAID's City Development Initiative project in the preparation and actual conduct of City Development Planning Workshop.
- In February 2015, the site team provided administrative support and coordination with partners for the visit of new US Ambassador and mobilized POs from LGUs to participate in the dialogue with the US Ambassador to share success stories and impacts during FISH and ECOFISH Projects.
- The site team provided administrative and logistical arrangement during the USAID visit in Bohol in June 2015. ECOFISH coordinated with the PCG and PNP Maritime regarding their assistance during the trip of the USAID dignitaries to Balicasag MPA and mobilized the PCG and PNP Maritime representatives to participate in the discussion with John Spears and Joe Foltz in relation to responding the issue on wildlife trafficking in the province.

Activities not accomplished and why:

- The Coastal Law Enforcement Training did not push through due to Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit in Cebu. Participants from enforcement agencies (PNP, Coastguard, Navy) were require to provide security along the waterways during the summit..

Issues and concerns:

None

Recommended courses of action:

None

5.3. Lingayen Gulf MKBA

During the third year of project implementation in the Lingayen Gulf MKBA the focus was on the inter-local cooperation on fisheries management and coastal law enforcement. After a series of consultations, the stakeholders themselves decided on reviving and strengthening the existing inter-local cooperation and called it the La Union Baywatch Network for Sustainable Fisheries (LUBNSF). A Memorandum of Agreement was signed by 34 stakeholders representing the various LGUs, national government agencies, NGOs, and the private sector. The Province of La Union led a planning sessions and committed to provide funds for its network's activities. The Province of La Union committed Php 2.5 million for the LUBNSF. The project likewise supported the Provincial Fisheries Ordinance of La Union which is currently being tackled by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan.

The table below summarizes the status (O – ongoing; C – completed) of interventions and activities in the Lingayen Gulf MKBA under the various deliverables.

Lingayen Gulf MKBA				
Project Intervention/Activity	2015			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Deliverable 1: Policy Studies on EAFM, MPA, and Climate Change				
MOU/ordinances supporting inter-LGU alliance.	O	O	C	
Provide data for Administrative Adjudication Orientation.	C			
Deliverable 2: Toolkits, Sourcebooks, and Case Studies on EAFM, MPA, and CCA				
Provide outline and assist in writing the case studies.	C			
Deliverable 4: State of the Marine Resources Report				
Participate in the drafting of SMRR.	C			
Deliverable 5: National, Regional and Municipal EAFM Trainings Conducted				
Fisheries law enforcement trainings for focal areas and BFAR RO1 QRT.	O	O	O	O
Provide complementary scientific and technical support in the training series for MKBA QRT on fishery law enforcement.	O	O	O	O
Artificial reef management training workshops for selected LGUs.	C			
Provide support to fish examiners training.	O	O	O	O
Conduct site-specific IEC training and planning workshop.	O	O	O	O
IEC materials conceptualization and training workshop with local academe.	O	O	O	O
Conduct series of IEC discussions and intensified campaign against the use of fine mesh nets, explosives and other illegal fishing activities.	O	O	O	O
Deliverable 6: Public-Private Partnerships Supporting ECOFISH Objectives Established				
Mobilize BFAR funding support for livelihood/enterprise projects in MPA/fish sanctuary communities.	O	O	O	O
Conduct scoping (POs and enterprises) and organizational diagnosis for social enterprises.	C			
Launching of 700DALOY.				
Deliverable 7: Bio-physical, Social and Economic Baseline Assessments of the 8 MKBAs				
Coordinate hiring of enumerators; meetings with local officials, POs and NGOs in preparation for the biophysical and socio-economic monitoring.	O	C		
Provide administrative and technical assistance to the team in the conduct of biophysical and socio-economic monitoring.	O	O	C	
Conduct benchmarking and enforcement assessment exercises.	O	O	C	
Deliverable 8: Scientific studies on selected MKBA-specific fish species				
Feedback seagrass assessment results to concerned LGUs.	C			
Assist LGUs in the development of management plan for siganids in selected municipalities.	O	O	O	O
Draft policy instrument to manage siganids.		O	O	O
Facilitate the identification and development of other species-specific or gear specific management interventions in the Lingayen Gulf MKBA.		O	C	
Review documents on management/mitigation measures for mariculture activities in Lingayen Gulf.		O	C	
Deliverable 9: MPA Network Analyses in the Eight MKBAs				

Provide technical assistance for the strengthening of existing MPAs.	O	O	O	O
Identification of SAF partner for the establishment of an MPA Network.	C			
Assist in the establishment of MPA network.	O	O	O	O
Conduct MPA network training for BFAR staff and key LGU personnel.	O	O	O	O
Support AMPA in focal areas through technical guidance and relevant trainings.		O	O	O
Provide technical assistance in the establishment of marine reserve in seagrass areas for conservation of siganid and shellfish.	O	O	O	O
Deliverable 10: Fisheries Management Plans of Select Inter-LGU Alliances in the Eight MKBAs				
Initial meeting of partners for the revival of an inter-LGU alliance to promote effective fisheries management and protection for Lingayen Gulf.	C			
Assist in the drafting of MOU for the inter-LGU alliance.	O	O	C	
Inter-LGU alliance forum to finalize management structure, tasks, funding, election of officers, secretariat (operational plan).	O	O	O	O
Conduct consultation for inter-LGU zoning of fisheries and other uses of marine waters.		O	O	O
Inter-LGU marine spatial planning (fisheries and water use planning).		O	O	O
Consultation and meetings on alliance-building and support and linkage to other ECOFISH activities (EAFM planning, MPA network, law enforcement, etc.).	O	O	O	O
Deliverable 11: Registry of Users of Municipal Fishing Waters Established in Select Municipal LGUs in the 8 MKBAs				
Monitor and provide technical assistance in the implementation of FishR activities.	O	O	O	C
Facilitate the conduct of training on EO 305 for municipal fishing vessel inspector training.		O	C	
Provide assistance in the development of policy to support registration and licensing of municipal fishing boats and gears.			O	O
Deliverable 12: Revenue Generation System for Fisheries Management Established and Effectively Implemented in Select LGUs				
Explore revenue generation systems or user fee schemes with partner LGUs.	O	O	O	O
Deliverable 13: Sustainable Financing Programs for EAFM Implemented in Select LGUs in the MKBA				
Identify target species for value chain study.	C			
Support conduct of value chain study.	O	O	O	C
IFRM planning to business planning.				
Linkage with CSR programs of companies along Lingayen Gulf.	O	O	O	O
Leverage with existing projects and programs on livelihood and tourism.	O	O	O	O

Highlights of Key Site-Level Activities/Accomplishments

- Inter-local cooperation on coastal law enforcement and sustainable fisheries has been the priority of the Lingayen Gulf MKBA during Year 3. The initial Roundtable Discussion (RTD) on Inter-local Cooperation held on 16 October 2014 set the stage for agreement among partners to strengthen the existing but non-operational La Union Bay Watch, and was strongly supported by the Province of La Union. This was followed by the first ad-hoc Technical Working Group meeting on 21 November 2014 that determined the nature and name of the inter-local cooperation, and sought feedback on membership to the body. It was basically determined that the inter-local cooperation will not only be focused on coastal law



The Province of La Union leads discussions with stakeholders for the institutional strengthening of the La Union Baywatch for Sustainable Fisheries.

enforcement but will also work on fisheries management, including tourism. After much deliberation and justification, the agreed name was La Union Baywatch Network for Sustainable Fisheries (LUBNSF). On 12 December 2014, during the second ad-hoc Technical Working Group meeting, further comments were made on the draft Memorandum of Agreement. The MoA was signed on April 2015 by 34 stakeholders.

- A scoping for possible social enterprise development was conducted by ECOFISH with fisherfolk associations in the focal LGUs of the project. This involved a total of 41 representatives from 23 fisherfolk associations, and 8 LGU representatives. Basically, it was seen that almost all fisherfolk associations seem to have weak structures and management



Discussions on strengthening of inter-local cooperation among partners in La Union led to the agreement to strengthen the re-named La Union Baywatch Network for Sustainable Fisheries.

based on their identified past and current activities. Also, there was a need to further strengthen potential associations through training in organizational management and financial management. Some existing start-up projects of a few associations are the banana vinegar in Agoo, artisanal bagoong in San Fernando City, and *Gracillaria* seaweed-drying in Rosario. Furthermore, assessments may need to be made to determine more encompassing livelihood options in the Lingayen Gulf MKBA.

- Representatives from BFAR Region 1, the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist in La Union, the Office of the City Agriculturist of Alaminos, and ECOFISH site staff took part in the State of the Marine Resources Report (SMRR) Workshop conducted at the UP-Marine Science Institute in Quezon City in October 2014. The group validated data for the report, and provided other data sources for MERF.



Some fisherfolk associations have started initiatives such as seaweed-drying through the support of local academic institutions like the Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University (DMMMSU); other fisherfolk associations started through their own or through local government funding but yet need further product development support and organizational management strengthening.

- Two batches of Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) National Workshop were held in October 2014, at the NIFTDC-BFAR, Bonuan, Binloc, Dagupan City. The Lingayen Gulf MKBA site staff provided assistance to resource speakers during the duration of the two workshops.
- Most coastal towns of La Union are not endowed with naturally occurring coral reef areas. They have opted to pursue the installation of artificial reefs (ARs) to facilitate regeneration of fish populations. ARs are likewise acting as fish aggregating device. Since



NOAA resource speakers and BFAR counter-part facilitators lead the discussions during the EAFM National Workshop. The participant from Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University returned to echo her learnings from the workshop to her colleagues.

fishing activities are normally not regulated along AR areas, there is a tendency for stocks to be overfished. The project conducted a workshop on the establishment and management of artificial reefs for the pilot municipalities of Bauang and Caba. These municipalities were

provided ARs through their respective bottoms-up-budget. The AR Management Workshop came up with respective AR Management Plans and draft ordinances creating ARs as fish sanctuaries in the two municipalities.

- As part of the site's IEC strategies on promoting responsible fishing, the ECOFISH project engaged in IEC efforts in various municipalities. Interactive games were conducted and IEC materials such as key chains and button pins on responsible fishing were distributed during the public fiesta of Bauang and various events on MPA protection in San Fernando City.
- Fish catch monitoring and socio-economic monitoring were conducted in previously identified sampling sites as part of the regular monitoring activity of the project.
- The role of the FARMC in pushing for favorable policies in support of sustainable fisheries is vital. The project has supported the FARMCs of La Union by facilitating its first resolution on the inclusion of FARMCs in LGU's respective development councils. The project regularly provide technical and logistic support to FARMCs to encourage and regularly perform their role as policy making body. The project assist FARMCs in drafting resolutions and submission to concerned agencies or LGUs to ensure that the voices of their constituents, the fisherfolks, are continuously heard.
- The project SAF awardee, the Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU) commenced its implementation of activities to establish MPA Network in the Lingayen Gulf with an Inception Workshop conducted on September 2015. Aside from existing MPAs in San Fernando City, the MPA network will initially include mangrove areas in the LGUs of Bauang and Aringay, the Agoon-Damortis Protected Landscape and Seascape (ADPLS), the Hundred Islands National Park, and artificial reef areas declared as fish sanctuaries.
- The ECOFISH team in Lingayen Gulf is also supporting mangrove management initiatives in the area. The project has established linkage with a local NGO called KADUAMI as a partner in the establishment of mangrove protected areas in Bauang and Aringay.
- ECOFISH engaged Don Mariano Marcos State University (DMMMSU) in the establishment of seagrass reserve in Santo Tomas, La Union through DENR. The proposed seagrass reserve is within the Agoon-Damortis Protected Landscape and Seascape. This is also in light of a possible support for the sea cucumber ranching project of DMMMSU as an alternative livelihood option in the seagrass areas.



Participants from Bauang and Caba municipalities map out their fishing ground areas before proceeding with drafting their AR Management Plans and ordinances to establish ARs as fish sanctuaries.



Participatory activities are conducted to raise awareness on responsible fishing during the annual fiesta of Bauang Municipality, La Union.



Participants discuss their concerns during the MPA Network Inception Workshop. At the end of the day, they signed their commitment towards the establishment of an MPA Network.

- The Value Chain Study on Siganids was conducted for 8 months from October 2014-June 2015. The siganid resources in the area remain a vital source of livelihood for fisherfolk, primarily from fishing, processing, and marketing. However, based on the value chain study, it was seen that the annual volume of juvenile siganid caught is much higher than the volume of adult siganid caught.

- In order to encourage the review of policies, and ensure protection of relevant habitats and siganid populations, a Consultation Workshop for the Sustainable Management of Siganids was held with concerned stakeholders in September 2015. The activity included review of the biology and life cycle of



Ms. Regina Bacalso explaining the biology of siganids in relation to closed seasons and possible management options to concerned stakeholders.

- signanids, fishing practices for siganids in the area, existing management interventions for siganids, and possible options for improving the management interventions like seasonal closures and fishing gear management.
- Enumerators were trained for a 3-month Willingness to Pay (WTP) survey of the Bued Mangrove Forest Park in Alaminos City in order to determine best options for user-fees that will support continuous management of the park. The conduct of the WTP survey was moved from January to March 2016.
- The FARMC of La Union together with the Bantay Dagat Network of Batangas joined the Legends Talk on Philippine Fisheries organized by BFAR. This also provided an opportunity for the project to engaged both in an idea sharing session to learn from each others initiatives.



FARMC representatives of La Union join the Legends Talk on Philippine Fisheries organized by BFAR. The project then later facilitated a sharing of experiences and ideas among FARMCs and Bantay Dagat of ECOFISH Sites La Union and Batangas provinces.

Unplanned activities:

- Training conducted on MPA monitoring and habitat assessment methods for 32 key BFAR technical personnel.

Activities not accomplished and why:

None

Issues and concerns:

- During discussions with the Provincial Government of La Union regarding the responsibilities under the La Union Baywatch Network for Sustainable Fisheries, the Office of the Provincial Administrator requested that ECOFISH-BFAR serve as secretariat instead of the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist (OPAG) as part of its capacity-building assistance and that this be indicated in the MOA.

Recommended courses of action:

- The Regional Director of BFAR Region 1 recommended a joint responsibility for the secretariat services. This will be within the MOA timeframe from 2015 to 2017, subject to review, extension, and official turn-over of full responsibility to the Province once the project ends.

5.4. Ticao Pass – Lagonoy Gulf – San Bernardino MKBA

During Year 3 of project implementation, assistance were provided to LGUs in the establishment of six MPAs through site surveys, proposal making, design suggestions and fund sourcing. Assistance was also provided for the BUB/GPB activities through proposal appraisal, facilitation in inter-agency review, processing, and monitoring of field implementation. ECOFISH

completed a value chain analysis (VCA) of the *Sardinella lemuru* and has started a catch survey and gonad development study. In the course of the investigation ECOFISH was able to identify another fishery, the anchovy, that also need of management intervention and a new gear innovation (“pakurat”) which should be regulated for biological and economic reasons. ECOFISH, in many instances working with agency partners, was able to respond to several LGU requests (boundary delineation, registration and licensing of commercial boats, FLET organization and training, patrol boat procurement, clarification of enforcement issues, and advances in legislation). The Project assisted partners in the conduct of a provincial and a municipal fisheries summit, MFARMC reorganization, identification of fish landing centers, and selection of enumerators.

The table below summarizes the status (O – ongoing; C – completed) of interventions and activities in the Ticao Pass- Lagonoy Gulf - San Bernardino MKBA under the various deliverables.

Ticao Pass – Lagonoy Gulf - San Bernardino MKBA				
Site Activities/Interventions	2015			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Deliverable 1: Policy Studies on EAFM, MPA, and Climate Change				
Provide technical support for delineation of municipal waters	O	O	O	O
Deliverable 2: Toolkits, Sourcebooks, and Case Studies on EAFM, MPA, and Climate Change				
Provide outline and assist in writing the case studies	O	O	O	O
Deliverable 4: State of the Marine Resources Report				
Participate in the drafting of the SMRR.	C			
Deliverable 5: National, Regional and Municipal EAFM Trainings Conducted				
Inter-LGU basic compliance promotion and enforcement training	O	O	O	O
Training on operations planning of inter-LGU enforcement teams			O	O
Inter-LGU training on marine spatial planning			O	O
Registration and licensing training and drafting of ordinance		O	O	O
PCRA training in focal area municipalities	O	O	O	O
Deliverable 6: Public-Private Partnerships Supporting ECOFISH Objectives Established				
Scoping and organizational diagnosis	O	O	O	O
Organizational strengthening		O	O	O
Deliverable 7: Bio-physical, Social and Economic Baseline Assessments				
Coordinate hiring of enumerators; meetings with local officials, POs and NGOs in preparation for the biophysical and socioeconomic monitoring	C			
Provide administrative and technical assistance to the team in the conduct of biophysical and socioeconomic monitoring		C		
Conduct benchmarking and enforcement assessment exercises	O	O	C	
Deliverable 8: Scientific Studies on Select MKBA-Specific Fish Species				
Species-specific management study on sardines.	O	O	O	O
Assess and evaluate the viability of mariculture species				O
Establish management/mitigation measures for mariculture				O
Establishment of appropriate fishing effort configuration				O

Facilitate the identification and development of other species-specific or gear-specific management interventions, as needed				O
Deliverable 9: MPA Network Analysis				
Consultation with partners on the hydrodynamic study and dispersal modeling and proposed MPA network design.	O	O	O	O
Assist in the establishment of individual MPAs.	O	O	O	O
Assist in the establishment of the MPA network				O
Facilitate various meetings with MPA management bodies	O	O	O	O
Assist in the drafting or updating of MPA management plans	O	O	O	O
Deliverable 10: Fisheries Management Plans of Select Inter-LGU Alliances in the MKBA				
Establishment and strengthening of fisheries law enforcement teams.	O	O	O	O
Establishment of Inter-LGU FLET			O	O
Inter-LGU fisheries management planning		O	O	O
Inter-LGU marine spatial planning (fisheries and water use planning)		O	O	O
Registration and licensing information in managing fishing effort utilized and integrated into the mangement plan			O	O
Deliverable 11: Registry of Users of Municipal Waters Established in Select Municipal LGUs in the MKBA				
Monitor and provide technical assistance in the implementation of FishR activities		O	O	O
Facilitate in the conduct of training on EO305 for municipal fishing vessel inspectors		O	O	O
Provide assistance on the development of policy to support registration and licensing of municipal fishing vessels and gears			O	O
Delivery 12: Revenue Generation System for Fisheries Management Established and Effectively Implemented in Select LGUs in the MKBA				
Cost-benefit analysis of LGU operations in fisheries management.				
Gather secondary data (annual CRM revenues and costs of the last 7 years)		O	O	O
Identify and establish potential user fees, fines and other market-based instruments for coastal resource uses			O	O
Assist in drafting and review of BUB/GPB proposals and other sources			O	O
Deliverable 13: Sustainable Financing Programs for EAFM Implemented in Select LGUs in Other MKBA				
Identify enterprises and NGO partners for				
Seaweed production (Northern Samar).	C			
Ecotourism (Sorsogon)	O	O	O	O
IFRM plan translated into business plan				O
Value Chain Analysis: sardines				
Conduct of survey	O	O		
Writeshop			O	C
Identify fish landing sites for NAPC program	C			

Highlights of Key Site-Level Activities/Accomplishments

- The Bulan and Sta. Magdalena LGUs delineated their municipal water boundaries with assistance from the site team. Meetings with BFAR Region 5 and the Office of the Provincial Agriculture recovered records of the delineation workshop held in the early 2000s thereby facilitating the delineation in Bulan in July 2015. The Sta. Magdalena LGU found no previous records and conducted the delineation in August 2015 using RA 8550 and DAO 17 as basis it will stand until new national guidelines are issued.



Issues within the three fishing grounds in Sorsogon-Masbate-Burias-Ticao Pass, Pacific Coast, and Sorsogon Bay were identified during the Sorsogon Provincial Fisheries Summit. ECOFISH is a member of TWG.

- The site team assisted REECS and MERF in the preparation, conduct and completion of the mid-term fish catch, biophysical and socioeconomic monitoring by selecting enumerators, arranging for their training, fieldwork, and payment, briefing LGUs and BFAR about the activity, clarifying names of gears, resolving misunderstandings with respondents and barangay officials, and retrieving and transmittal of questionnaires. The team also invited NFRDI fisheries observers to assist the MERF resource persons. The fish catch monitoring training also included 13 participants from eight LGUs and BFAR 5 and 8.

- Catch and gonad development monitoring of “lawlaw” (*Sardinella lemuru*), the species selected for scientific study, in fish landings in San Vicente, Bulan and Pilar commenced in September 2015 after the training of four enumerators. The *S. lemuru* is traditionally caught by “largarete”, called “kurantay” in San Vicente, which is a surface to mid-water gill net (nets no. 8 to 12), with the aid of lights. The site team earlier had interviewed fishers, fish dealers, and Bulan Fish Port authorities to gather background information



Fishing boat that uses “pakurat” docked at the shoreline of Tarnate, San Vicente.

- The study of the *S. lemuru* has led fishers to point out to the site team another important and commercially valuable species in the Ticao Pass-San Bernardino Strait junction which they say is also in need of management. This is the “burabid” (also called “barorog”), an anchovy caught from October to March by the surface gill net “kurantay” (net no.



LGUs of Bulan and San Vicente, pakurat and largarete fishers, and fish dealers were invited to a round table discussion re: possible ways of regulating pakurat and improving quality of fish catch of largarete fishers

22), the lift net “saplot” (net no. 32), the lift net “pakurat” (net no. 30), and the shallow bottom-set “palobog” (net no. 22). The fishery, exploited by Bulan, Masbate and San Vicente fishers, is presently unregulated and no conservation is yet in place. Some fishers deplore the

fact that the thick mass of eggs that the “burabid” lay on the “palobog” nets is just thrown away.



Regular BUB meeting with BFAR 5 ARD Marjorie Grutas and BUB coordinator Ronald Canabe.

- The Bulan LGU redesigned the plan for the Butag Bay MPA to resolve the lack of community support because traditional fishing rights were not considered when the MPA was established in 1999. The new design, which was conceived by the site team, called for the setting up of two sanctuaries around the eastern and western sections of the reef identified by MERF to have good live coral cover. The conduct of a resource mapping of existing uses will be the basis for a zonation of the bay, reconciling compatible uses with the conservation objective of the sanctuaries. This scheme has consequently been adopted by the LGU when it submitted a proposal requesting funding assistance from the Global Environmental Facility Component of the World Bank-funded Philippine Rural Development Project. The team helped the LGU in drafting the proposal
- A proposal for the establishment of two MPAs, one in Destacado Island and the other in Darsena Island, was drafted by the site team for the San Vicente LGU. The proposal has been submitted to BFAR Region 8 for its endorsement and funding from BUB.
- A resource mapping activity proposal in connection with the preparation for the establishment of an MPA in Barangays Penafrancia and Poblacion 3 of Sta. Magdalena LGU has been submitted for funding support. The cores of the MPAs are the reefs identified by MERF to still have fair hard coral cover. Funding for the establishment of the two MPAs will come from the municipal government
- The site team arranged for an underwater survey carried out by the MPA specialist in September 2015 in the MPA sites in Bulan, San Vicente, and Prieto Diaz. This was a complementary activity to surveys also conducted earlier by BFAR Region 5 and 8 divers.

The activity identified alternative sites for the cores of the MPAs. The Prieto Diaz MPA in Barangay Diamante will be funded by BUB

- The Biri LGU with assistance from the site team has organized its FLET and procured a patrol boat with funds from BFAR Region 8. Earlier the Punong Barangays (four had joined the study tour to the VIP MKBA) had asked the mayor to strengthen law enforcement in the eastern and southern waters of the municipality. The team also facilitated the LGU's request from BFAR Region 8 to conduct an enforcement training for the FLET
- BFAR Region 5 and MARINA responding to the Bulan LGU's request and registered and licensed 24 commercial fishing vessels in March 2015. The request was made after a meeting with fisherfolk in Bariis which the site team participated
- In preparation for law enforcement trainings, the site team coordinated with the Sorsogon and Northern Samar Police Offices for the vetting of personnel in the MPSs. Twenty officers from four Northern Samar municipalities submitted vetting forms
- A VCA of the S. lemuru was started in November 2014 and the fieldwork was completed in May 2015 and the report submitted in July 2015. The study traced the commodity from the fish landings brought by "largarete" fishing units in Ticao and Burias Passes to Bicol and Navotas markets, including Young's Town Cannery. Most of the catch is absorbed and shipped to Navotas by buyers who ultimately set the price at PhP18 to 20 a kilo depending on the freshness and appearance. Fish dealers in Bulan and other ports take their cue and calculate their margins after the Navotas price is set. Dealers developed "suki" relations with the sardine fishers which guarantee supply. S. lemuru spoils easily and shipments from Bulan Port face stiff competition with the sardines coming from Zamboanga. In June 2015, the fishers complained to the Bulan LGU about the very low price of PhP 5 a kilo that they get for their catch.
- The site team provided assistance to LGUs and BFAR Region 5 in the appraisal of BUB proposals and in the monitoring of implementation. Bulan's 2013 proposal for payao was



Photos of coral reef in Sila, San Vicente, a proposed MPA, during the underwater survey conducted by ECOFISH team.

finally withdrawn. Funding for Bulan's 2014 proposal for coastal conservation IEC will be transferred soon to the LGU. Meanwhile procurement for the other five 2014 projects (fish pots, large mesh gill nets, jiggers, concrete artificial reefs, and tilapia hatchery) is on-going. Bulan's 2015 proposals for additional gears (for use in gear exchange) and fish processing were returned for revision. Sta. Magdalena's procurement of 50 non-motorized bancas has

been completed. The first 20 units have already been turned over to the beneficiaries. Procurement for Sta. Magdalena's second project, fish farming assistance, is underway. Matnog which has been disqualified by DILG for fund transfer will have the procurement for her two projects (jiggers and hook and lines and fingerling dispersal) done by BFAR

- MERF received additional data (MPA size, pollution sources, stock assessments, etc.) which the site team sourced from LGUs, SCUs and NGAs with offices in the province in order to fill up some gaps in the initial draft of the SMRR.
- The site team joined BFAR8 in identifying possible fish landing centers in Biri and helped recruit NSAP enumerators later assigned to Biri, Capul and San Vicente
- Benchmarking in Biri, Capul, San Vicente, Sta. Magdalena, Matnog, and Bulan were conducted. BFAR Region 8 was informed of the results.
- The site team facilitated the selection of trainees for the National EAFM Training, preparation for an EAFM training for BFAR Region 8, a training needs assessment for 19 personnel from the QRT and other units of BFAR5, and screening of Bulan's nominees to the PPP Training at the Development Academy of the Philippines.

Unplanned activities:

- The site team, as a member of the TWG of the Sorsogon Sanggunian Panlalawigan Agriculture and Fisheries Committee, participated in the planning and conduct of a two-day province-wide fisheries summit in July. The conference agreed to pursue an agenda to increase fisherfolk participation in fisheries management. The team also attended re-organization meetings of MFARMCs organized by the PFO in July and the Bulan municipal farmers and fisherfolk congress in May.
- An FGD facilitated by the Senior Governance Specialist to explore ways of regulating the "pakurat" (a lift net method targeting sardines which because it does not injure the fish fetches a better price for the catch; "largarete" fishers started to adopt this method only in June 2015) was held in Bulan in September. LGU and BFAR officials, fishing operators, fish dealers, and law enforcers from Bulan and San Vicente attended. ECOFISH suggested possible technical and financial approaches by which the two municipalities may regulate the method. The sticking points however were the legality of the net (net no. 17), vessel tonnage, and the level of illumination that can be permitted
- The site team arranged a meeting also in September 2015 wherein Bulan SB members and law enforcers were able to consult the Senior Governance Specialist about the incorporation of administrative adjudication process in the proposed municipal fisheries ordinance, burning confiscated gears, penalties of certain violations, and "slapsuit".
- ECOFISH provided the San Vicente LGU a legal memorandum advising an alternative way of complying Local Government Code requirements for ordinances with penal and revenue measures which would avoid the high cost of publication in newspapers. The memorandum suggested the publication only of the gist of the measures and the posting of the ordinance in all the municipal halls of Northern Samar municipalities and in the seven barangays of San Vicente.

Activities not accomplished and why:

- Typhoons “Ruby” and “Amang”, the dismissal of the Sta. Magdalena Mayor and his resumption of office, and the two suspensions meted on the Bulan Mayor disrupted LGU participation in some of the ECOFISH activities. The changes local government leadership brought periods of political and administrative paralysis as personnel preferred to lie low until normalcy returned. Law enforcement trainings were put on hold because of police force reassignment to provide security for the APEC ministerial meeting in Legazpi City and the Papal visit. No less than the Sorsogon Provincial Police Office made this advice. Planned activities also gave way to the preparations for the VIP Batangas study tour and the environmental summit.
- The proponents of the hydrodynamic study and dispersal modelling (and the MPA network design which will be based on it) have not yet been made contact with the site team. In the meantime, the team concentrated in working out with the individual LGUs and communities for the development of their MPAs
- Activities concerning studies on mariculture, user fees and fishing effort configuration, and workshops for the marine spatial planning are rescheduled to Year 4 per advice of the Thematic Leads and persons responsible for initiating these.

Issues and concerns:

- The conduct of the fish catch and socioeconomic monitoring encountered a number of problems in eliciting respondent cooperation besides change of address. Government agencies and politicians too had conducted surveys in the coastal areas which were affected by Typhoon “Ruby” (December) and “Amang” (January), months before the ECOFISH survey. In many instances, these preceding surveys gave respondents an expectation that relief goods or financial assistance would be forthcoming. In some cases the politicians indeed fulfilled their promise, distributing food, clothing, farming and fishing implements. By the time ECOFISH started its own survey in February, the enumerators met respondents already with this mind set expecting more hand-outs. In Sta. Magdalena, the fish catch enumerators were temporarily halted by followers of Mayor Alejandro Gamos who reassumed his post in May after the Ombudsman reversed the dismissal order issued in March 2014. The followers mistakenly thought that the survey was a project of Vice Mayor Jocelyn Gallanosa who had replaced Gamos after the latter’s dismissal
- Optimization of the BUB/GPB program by the LGUs was being constrained by incomplete and late submission of documents, absence of the DILG Seal of Good Housekeeping, slow procurement of goods and materials, and lack of enough personnel who can implement the projects. In Bulan, the preparation of some documents and material procurement required the cooperation from departments other than the agriculture office. The failure of San Vicente and Matnog to liquidate funds received from programs in the past prevented these LGUs from receiving the Seal of Good Housekeeping. Sta. Magdalena so far has had only two projects. This is partly because besides the political-administrative turmoil caused by changes in the local chief executive position the lone fisheries technician is also the MENRO and the DRRMO. In San Vicente, there are only two personnel in the agriculture office, the municipal agriculturist and the fisheries technician. The site team wrote the BUB proposal for them. Capul which has no fisheries technician and Biri which has a technician whose

monthly salary is PhP2,000 have yet to propose for a project. Only Bulan has the most number of projects and this is because the mayor since she assumed office in 2013 has increased the personnel assigned to fisheries from one to five

Recommended courses of action:

None

5.5. South Negros Island MKBA

- For Year 1, several site level activities in Southern Negros Island were facilitated to include start-up and “hand shake” activities with key personnel from the Regional and Provincial BFAR Offices, local government chief executives and their key personnel performing coastal and fisheries resource management functions. Major accomplishments include the benchmarking of Local Government Units (LGUs) to implement Ecosystems Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM), coastal law enforcement capacity assessment, underwater assessments of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), fisheries and socioeconomic baseline assessments.
- Year 2 interventions focused on governance support to existing MPAs through Management Planning and training for MPA Management Board, strengthening of local coastal and fishery law enforcement teams and coastal fisheries resource management planning at the municipal and Marine Key Biodiversity Assessment (MKBA) wide levels.
- Targeted activities for Year 3 were establishment of new MPAs and network of MPAs, promotion of gear and vessel registration and licensing and its use in right sizing of fishing effort and support to environment-friendly enterprises and revenue generation mechanisms to have more direct contribution towards increase in fish biomass and increase in people gaining employment or better employment. Sustaining mechanisms include capacitation of people’s organizations and permanent LGU employees at the municipal level and active involvement of BFAR and Provincial Government who will play a great role in providing technical assistance in continuing EAFM program in the focal areas and facilitating its replication in other LGUs at the provincial and regional scales.

The table below summarizes the status (O- ongoing; C- completed) of interventions and activities in the South Negros Island MKBA under the various deliverables.

South Negros MKBA				
Project Intervention/Activity	2015			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Deliverable 1: Policy Studies on EAFM, MPA, and Climate Change				
Facilitate workshop on the review of Municipal Fisheries ordinances for Negros Oriental and Occidental.	C			
Deliverable 2: Toolkits, Sourcebooks, and Case Studies on EAFM, MPA, and CCA				
Identify qualified candidates for fish examiners course from South Negros.		O	O	O

Draft outline of two case studies for South Negros.	O	O	O	O
Deliverable 4: State of the Marine Resources Report				
Participate in the drafting of SMRR.	C			
Deliverable 5: National, Regional and Municipal EAFM Trainings Conducted				
Training for Police Environment Desk Officers in Negros Oriental, judges and prosecutors.		O	O	O
Training on local legislation and administrative adjudication .	C			
QRT Operations Planning for QRT 6 and 7.	O	O	O	O
Training on the establishment of Network of MPAs .		O	O	O
Training on inter-LGU zoning of fisheries and other uses of marine resources.			O	O
Training on the establishment of registration and licensing system.				O
Deliverable 6: Public-Private Partnerships Supporting ECOFISH Objectives Established				
Facilitate collection of documentary evidence/ evidence of community beneficiaries .	C			
Facilitate meeting with LGU to present Organizational Diagnosis report .	C			
Deliverable 7: Bio-physical, Social and Economic Baseline Assessments of the 8 MKBAs				
Coordinate hiring of enumerators; meetings with local officials, POs and NGOs in preparation for the biophysical and socio-economic monitoring.	O	C		
Conduct of biophysical/underwater assessments		O	C	
Conduct fish monitoring surveys		O	C	
Conduct of the Socioeconomic household surveys		O	C	
Facilitate EAFM benchmarking for Year 2 (back to back with MEAT assessment	C			
Deliverable 8: Scientific studies on selected MKBA-specific fish species				
Consultations/workshops on drafting the ordinance on species/ gear specific regulation(s)	O	O	O	O
Deliverable 9: MPA Network Analyses in the Eight MKBAs				
Finalize MPA Management Plans of Sipalay .	C			
Finalize MPA Management Plans of Hinobaan .	C			
Facilitate adoption of MPA management Plans of Sipalay City .			C	
Facilitate adoption of MPA management Plans of Hinobaan.			C	
MEAT assessment in all MPAs .	O	O	O	O
Deliverable 10: Fisheries Management Plans of Select Inter-LGU Alliances in the Eight MKBAs				
Facilitate discussions and write shops on the finalization of individual CFRM Plans of focal sites- Siaton, Sta. Catalina and Basay).	O			
Facilitate joint marine spatial planning/ zoning workshop for South Negros MKBA .	O	O	O	O
Establish appropriate fishing effort configuration.				O
Deliverable 11: Registry of Users of Municipal Fishing Waters Established in Select Municipal LGUs in the 8 MKBAs				
Monitor and provide technical assistance in the implementation of FishR activities.	O	O	O	O

Facilitate training for Municipal Fishing Vessel inspectors .		O	O	O
Deliverable 12: Revenue Generation System for Fisheries Management Established and Effectively Implemented in Select LGUs				
Facilitate dialogues for Sipalay MPA user fee benefit realization.	C			
Benefit Cost studies: gather income statements of LGUs for the past 7 years (CRM revenues)	C			
Deliverable 13: Sustainable Financing Programs for EAFM Implemented in Select LGUs in the MKBA				
Regular coordination/ meeting with partner NGO in connection with the SAF on sustainable fisheries of SEMFISH		O	O	O
Serve as resource person in trainings/ workshops in support to SEMFISH.			O	O
Training for RA/PCV on value chain.	C			
Actual survey activities on value chain analysis.	O	C		
Participate in writeshop for the drafting of value chain.			C	

Highlights of Key Site-Level Activities/Accomplishment

- ECOFISH facilitated a workshop on Municipal Fisheries Ordinance Review and Administrative Adjudication. This activity served as an avenue for Vice Mayors, Sangguniang Bayan (SB) Committee Chairman on Agriculture/Fisheries and Environment, Municipal Agriculturists and Fisheries Technicians from the seven focal LGUs- Siaton, Sta. Catalina, Bayawan City, Basay, Hinobaan, Sipalay City and Cauayan to review and update their Municipal Fisheries Ordinances (MFOs) at the same time gain more knowledge on local legislation and administrative adjudication. National and provincial support offices such as the Office of Provincial Agriculturist (OPA) and Provincial Environment and Management Office (PEMO) of Negros Occidental, Environment and Natural Resources Division (ENRD) of Negros Oriental and BFAR Region 6 were also represented. This activity also paved way for the introduction of the tuna value chain study to be implemented in the site from December 2014 onwards and updating of EAFM benchmarks for Year 2.

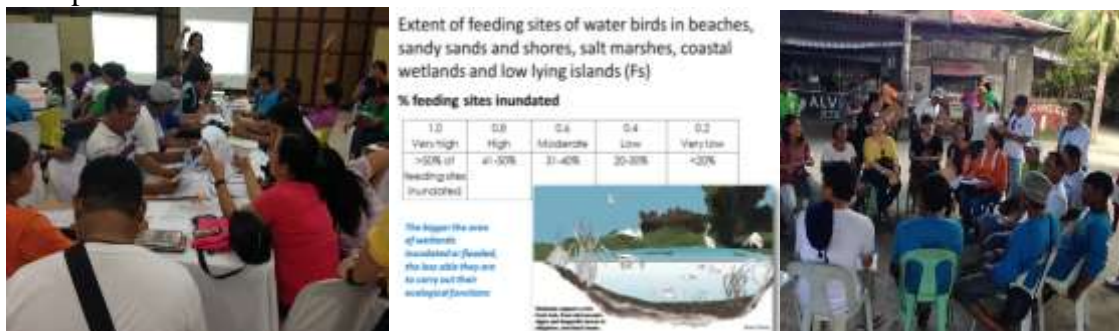


Workshop on Municipal Fisheries Ordinance Review and Administrative Adjudication last November 19-20, 2014

- The South Negros Site Coordinator, together with BFAR-Negros Oriental's Provincial Fisheries Officer (PFO), Provincial ENRD Head and Sta. Catalina Fisheries Technician participated in the 2nd State of the Marine Resources Report Workshop at UP Diliman,

Quezon City. Data gaps and other information needed for the State of the Marine resources Report were collated and submitted. A draft SMRR was submitted by January 2015.

- In October 2014, ECOFISH co-organized, served as resource person and facilitator in the Coastal Vulnerability Assessment (CVA) Facilitators Training involving 20 coastal LGUs of Negros Occidental at Mambukal Resort, Murcia, Negros Occidental. This is in connection with the goal of National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) in mainstreaming Disaster Risk Assessment and Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment in the Provincial Development and Physical Framework Plans (PDPFP). The trained facilitators will roll-out their action plans together with PEMO staff. Focus group discussions (FGDs) for coastal Barangays in Hinobaan, Sipalay and Cauayan were completed from Dec. 1-15, 2014. Each coastal LGU will draft the CVA reports as input to their Comprehensive Land Use Plans (CLUPs) and a consolidated/ province wide analysis and report will be done by PEMO for incorporation in the PDPFP.



Coastal Vulnerability Assessment (CVA) Facilitators Training on October 20-21, 2014

- Collection of documentary evidences on strategic community partnerships were facilitated in the first quarter of Year 3 while the meeting with LGU to present Organizational Diagnosis report was facilitated during the second quarter of 2015. As of September 2015, the submitted proposals namely Backyard Quail farm (as replacement for the Si-it Andulay Community based ecotourism) of Andulay Fishermen's Association and Mudcrab Fattening Project of San Jose Community Association in Siaton were approved for funding under the 2015 Bottom-Up-Budgeting (BUB) Program submitted to the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE).
- With approved project concept on Sustainable Enterprises for municipal fishing communities of South Negros (SEMFISH-South Negros) in partnership with Alter Trade Foundation, Inc. (ATFI) community partners under SSG namely: (1) Andulay Fishermen's Association, (2) Palampinon- Palayuhan- Siit Multi-Purpose Association, (3) Siit Bay Fishermen's Association (4) San Jose Community Association, (5) Villareal, Tinago, Buyco Fishermen's Association, (6) Caranoche Mangrove Community association will still be involved in the said project. The business plans, project proposals and Organizational Diagnosis report of our assisted peoples organizations (POs) with technical assistance from SSG were endorsed to ATFI. Additional community partners identified for SEMFISH are the following:
 1. Cauayan Small Fishfolk Association (CASFA)
 2. Guiljungan Small Fisherfolk Association (GUISAFSA)
 3. Sipalay Fishermen Association (SASFA)
 4. Cayhagan Small Fishermen Multi-purpose Cooperation
 5. Culipapa Fisherfolk Association
 6. V-wide Nabulao Bay – ILARFA, EFFA & TOSFA

7. Cot-cot Trawlers & Fisherfolk Association
8. Pasil, Sta. Catalina Fisherfolk Association

The SEMFISH-South Negros project component will complement the larger ECOFISH project by empowering fishers' communities through multiple people-based enterprises that will improve and sustain their livelihood on non-fishing endeavors. While the ECOFISH Project focuses on improving the biodiversity and the ecosystem productivity in South Negros, SEMFISH will assist coastal communities to develop sustainable social enterprises that harmonize with ecosystem conservation and generate sufficient income for the small fishers' households.

- For the bio-physical and socio-economic baseline assessments for Year 3, the site team handled the preliminary work that includes facilitating administrative and logistic needs, briefing and coordination with LGU technical staff, identification, selection and hiring of enumerators to conduct the actual data collection for both bio-physical and socio-economic assessments. The MERF team conducted underwater assessments and focus group discussions with ECOFISH and LGU staff last March 2015 in the same sites evaluated in 2013. Enumerators were also hired and trained to conduct one on one interviews with fisherfolk and the 3 month fish landing surveys in Siaton, Sta. Catalina and Bayawan City from March to June 2015. For the socio-economic baseline survey, twelve household survey enumerators from the three LGUs were hired and trained last March 2015. The surveys commenced simultaneously in the 3 LGUs where 540 respondents were interviewed from 6 coastal Barangays each in Siaton, Sta. Catalina and Bayawan City in April to June 2015.
- As part of monitoring Indicator 12, *the number of LGUs that have achieved EAFM benchmark level 2 or higher* of the Project Monitoring Plan (PMP), an annual guided EAFM Governance Benchmark self-assessment for each of the focal LGUs in the MKBA was facilitated. And as agreed, the focal LGUs must achieve level 2 benchmark in at least 7 out of 11 of the Basic Benchmarking categories. The EAFM benchmarking for Year 2 was facilitated during the Administrative Adjudication Training last November 2014. Prior to the assessment, a review of the guidelines for the conduct of the EAFM Governance Benchmark self-assessment, including the results of the previous assessment in January 2013 was presented by the Site Coordinator. The respondents of the survey were MAO, Fisheries Technician and the Chair of the SB Committee on Fisheries (or Agriculture).
- In the previous workshops, consultations and dialogues with fisherfolk and other stakeholders from the Municipality of Hinobaan and Siaton, the need to evaluate beach seine (sahid) operations have been raised. Together with the Offices of Municipal Agriculturist, we have designed activities for the gathering and analysis of required scientific information to arrive at appropriate management recommendations for sahid. As preliminary activity, we conducted a series of focus group discussions with sahid operators in Siaton and Hinobaan. A Catch Monitoring Training and Stakeholder Consultations for the Management of Beach Seine Fisheries in South Negros MKBA is scheduled this November 2015.
- The establishment and strengthening of MPAs and MPA networks is one of the major strategies to achieve its goal of increasing fish stocks and improving livelihood in the South Negros MKBA. In partnership with the Southern Negros Coastal Development and Management Council (SNCDMC) and Peace Corps Volunteer (PCV), a series of underwater assessment and delineation of boundaries for the proposed MPAs in Brgy. Talacagay (20 has), Hinobaan; Brgy. Cayhagan (25 has), Sipalay City; and Brgy. Linawon (10 has),

Cauayan were facilitated. The Barangay Councils from the three concerned Barangays have already issued resolutions for the establishment of said MPAs and the technical reports have been submitted and endorsed to the respective LGUs for appropriate action

- Also to assist us in this goal, we have engaged the Philippine Reef and Rainforest Conservation Foundation, Inc. (PRRCFI) through a Special Activity Fund (SAF) to provide technical assistance to local communities in the selection of the MPAs/sanctuaries in Siaton, Sta. Catalina and Sipalay City. In May 2015, an orientation meeting with the President and staff of PRRCFI in Bacolod City on the work plan and deliverables was facilitated.
- Together with the PRRCFI Staff, courtesy meetings and briefings with SNCDMC Technical



Training on biophysical assessment techniques in June 2-3, 2015

Working Group, Mayors, Municipal Agriculturists and Fisheries Technicians of Siaton, Sta. Catalina and Sipalay City were facilitated from June to July 2015 to present the project concept and planned activities in their area.

- In partnership with PCV, we have provided technical assistance and training materials such as mask and snorkel, slate boards and life vests during the training on biophysical assessment techniques for local members of Brgy. Manalongon, Sta. Catalina in June 2015. This was followed with a public hearing for the proposed MPA in Brgy. Manalongon, Sta. Catalina spearheaded by the LGU. Once established, this will be the first MPA in the municipality.
- Recognizing the role of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Councils (FARMC) in coastal fisheries resources management (CFRM), FARMC organizing has been one of the



FARMC orientation and creation in Basay, Negros Oriental on December 9, 2014

priority activities identified since the start of the ECOFISH project implementation. The FARMC empowers the subsistence fisherfolks through active participation in the decision making process and primarily serves as an advisory body in managing and protecting the fisheries and aquatic resources of the municipality. In support to these council, the project

staff have always provided technical support during regular meetings and other activities. In October 2014, Siaton FARMC held a regular meeting at and discussed prevalent fishing violations: 1) intrusion of commercial fishers within the municipal waters, 2) spear fishing inside Salag Marine Reserve, 3) pusdo/ modified hook and line which are being operated in fish aggregating devices. Each association also presented the status of their livelihood projects under the national fisheries program, grassroots participatory budgeting processes (GPBP) and among others.

- The Municipality of Basay is the only LGU in the South Negros MKBA with no organized FARMC. Finally last December 9, 2014, at least 70 representatives from Fisherfolk People's Organizations, accredited non-government organizations, youth and women's organizations, Municipal Planning and Development Office, Basay Sangguniang Bayan and the Municipal Development Council gathered together to participate in the FARMC orientation and creation.
- In partnership with the BFAR 7 Regional FARMC Coordinator, an orientation and creation of Municipal FARMC was facilitated. At the end of the activity, it was agreed by the Council that a regular meeting will be conducted every 1st Wednesday of month at 1pm. Site Staff has been consistently providing technical support and coaching since January 2015.
- Last December 10, 2014, we participated and served as resource person in the Annual General Assembly of Siaton's FARMC which was joined by Dir. Andres Bojos and technical staff from BFAR regional and provincial offices, Philippine Coast Guard and 14 fisherfolk associations in the municipality. Each association were given the opportunity to present status and updates of their respective organizations and discuss concerns on gear regulations, issues on enforcement among others.
- In celebration of the annual Fish Conservation Week and Buglasan Festival of Negros



Annual General Assembly of Siaton's FARMC at Siaton Multi-Purpose Gym on December 10, 2014

Oriental, the ECOFISH Project has been tapped by ENRD to co-organize the first Marine Protected Area (MPA) Summit in the province. The Fish Conservation Week is being observed during the 3rd Week of October since the issuance of Proclamation No. 176 in October 21, 1963. The weeklong celebration usually centers on public awareness-raising on the importance of protecting and conserving our fisheries and aquatic resources.

- In the advent of mainstreaming EAFM in the programs and activities of the SNCDMC, the Annual Assessment Planning Workshop was conducted last April 2015 at the Integrated Business Center (IBC), Bayawan City. The said activity provided a venue for the SNCDMC-Technical Working Group (TWG) to assess the Alliance accomplishments and capacity needs for a more effective and sustainable fisheries management. By the end of the

workshop, we were able to formulate EAFM strategies and plan of actions for Calendar year 2015, Work and Financial Plan for 2015 and review of their Manual of Operations.



SNCDMC Annual Assessment Planning Workshop last April 7-8, 2015 at IBC, Bayawan City

- On April 28, 2015, we joined the SNCDMC Meeting for the presentation of Planned Activities and Work and Financial Plan for 2015 and launching of the Sustainable Enterprises for Municipal Fishing Communities (SEMFISH) of South Negros- Negros Occidental cluster in partnership with Alter Trade Foundation Inc. (ATFI).
- The Joint Seaborne Patrol Program or the Coastal Law Enforcement Council (CLEC) of the 3rd District of Negros Oriental was initiated in 2005. And in November 8, 2006, the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Basay, Bayawan City, Sta. Catalina and Siaton and all the partner agencies namely the Provincial Government of Negros Oriental, BFAR, DILG, DENR, Philippine Navy, Philippine Coast Guard, PNP Maritime Group and PNP was signed. For the past few months, the CLEC member LGUs, Siaton Sta. Catalina and Bayawan City have been contemplating and discussing to withdraw from the joint seaborne patrol program. Hence last May 20, 2015 a Review of Memorandum of Agreement of CLEC was facilitated at the Sangguniang Bayan (SB) Session Hall, Bayawan City. This was participated by the representatives from the Municipalities of Siaton, Sta. Catalina and Bayawan City, Environment and Natural Resources Division of Negros Oriental and concerned National Government Agencies such as the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), PNP- Maritime Group, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and Philippine Coast Guard (PCG).



Review of Memorandum of Agreement of CLEC last May 20, 2015

- On 29 September to 01 October 2014, Training on Value Chain Studies was participated by site coordinators and value chain enumerators from the eight project sites. The Southern Negros team came up with tuna value chain objectives and core process flow, identified major actors and drafted the 6 month work plan. A series of orientation and briefing to

present the Tuna Value Chain objectives, core processes and work plan with Local Chief Executives, coastal Barangay Officials and LGU Technical Staff were facilitated as preliminary activity. As one of the major commercially important fish in the area, this Value Chain Analysis (VCA) mainly focused on yellow fin tuna and shark as its by catch. It is mainly aimed to describe the chain of actors and their downstream and upstream activities related to tuna fisheries in South Negros, as well as to identify and analyze the distribution of benefits (costs) of different actors in the tuna value chain. This study was conducted from November 2014 to June 2015 in South Negros MKBA, covering the chosen municipalities in Negros Oriental and Negros Occidental. A total of 72 respondents were interviewed to include municipal fishermen, fishing vessel owners, tuna dealers, wet market vendors, exporter, restaurants and resorts.



- Last December 12-13, a meeting with ATFI to level-off on ECOFISH objectives and work plan and SEMFISH two year work plan was conducted which was followed by a scoping visit in 2 fishing communities in Cauayan, Negros Occidental (see pictures above). The agreed next steps were the following: 1) ATFI to conduct site selection and submit first report to ECOFISH by end of January 2015, 2) ECOFISH to explore publishing brochure on SEMFISH and 3) ECOFISH to provide survey forms to ATFI and Fr. Eryl for data gathering for Net-Works Project with the Zoological Society of London (ZSL).
- The first phase of the SEMFISH Project was conducted from December 2014 to February 2015 where scoping and scanning of active people's organization, cooperative LGUs, products and services that can contribute to scaling up of enterprises and market links were facilitated while the 2nd phase of the project which involves Community Development and Business Planning are now on going. The SEMFISH Project- Negros Oriental cluster has been launched last March 18, 2015.

Unplanned activities:

- With the prevalent need of national and local governments to prepare strategic actions or adaptations to climate change, vulnerability assessment (VA) has been a practical step in gathering critical information on the sensitivity and level of exposure of an area to climate change impacts. One of the common goals of the ECOFISH Project and the Provincial Environment and Management Office (PEMO) of Negros Occidental is to facilitate VAs and to incorporate the VA results in the local and provincial development and management plans. The VA facilitators training conducted in October 21-22, 2014 enabled local technical staff from the twenty (20) coastal Local Government Units (LGUs) in Negros Occidental to facilitate VA assessments in their respective sites.
- Last April 10, 2015, the Site Coordinator participated in the meeting with United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Philippine National Police (PNP), US-

Department of Interior (DOI) and Philippines Biodiversity and Watersheds Improved for Stronger Economy and Ecosystem Resilience (B+WISER) Program representatives at the US Embassy, Manila. The PNP has requested for USAID's assistance on the development of a Program of Instruction (POI) on Environmental Laws for integration into the PNP School of Investigation and Detective Development.

- The Site Coordinator joined the Interagency Information Sharing on Illegal Fishing and Related Crimes in Danajon Bank and Southern Negros on May 6, 2015 in Cebu City. The coastal law enforcement status and issues in South Negros and Danajon Bank were presented by the Site Coordinators and discussed possible courses of action with representatives from BFAR, PNP Maritime Group, Philippine Navy and Phil. Coast Guard.
- The site team served as resource persons during the Girls Leading Our World (GLOW) Camp organized by the Peace Corp Volunteers on May 20-23, 2015 at Brgy. Siit, Siaton, Negros Oriental. This was attended by high school students from the Municipalities of Zamboangita and Siaton. Ms. Sobrevega, Site Coordinator provided a presentation on critical coastal habitats and South Negros profile while Ren Galeos, Community Relations Specialist discussed Climate Change and its effect to the coastal communities and resources.
- In contribution to the project's goal to increase incomes of community partners and to promote marine conservation, a partnership with ZSL has been forged to implement Project Net-Works. The said project aims to establish community-based supply chains for discarded nylon-6 fishing nets in poor and rural fishing communities in the Philippines that generate social and environmental benefits within those communities. Another component of Project Net-Works is introducing and capacitating communities in self-help financial groups known as Community Savings and Credit Associations (CoMSCAs). Our partner NGOs, ZSL and ATFI will be assisting our partner fisherfolk associations in this endeavor which will ensure a transparent and cohesive platform for the collection of nets, access to simple financial services and provide opportunities to save income earned from the nets.
- Last May 8, 2015 at the BFAR Provincial Fisheries Office in Dumaguete City, a meeting with Mr. Amado Blanco, Project Manager of Project Net-works and Alter Trade Foundation Executive Director, Ted Lopez and staff was conducted to provide an overview of the Project Net-Works and the activities to be facilitated to assess the viability of the project in the province. Moreover, in partnership with ATFI, hired enumerators will assess the viability of the project in focal LGUs namely Siaton, Sta. Catalina, Bayawan and Basay, Negros Oriental and Hinobaan, Sipalay City and Cauayan, Negros Occidental. While a series of focus group discussions and key informant interviews will be conducted by University of the Philippines in the Visayas (UPV) Interns in the expansion sites namely Dumaguete City, Bacong, Dauin and Zamboangita in June 2015.
- In support to our expansion areas in South Negros MKBA, ECOFISH Project orientation and introduction for expansion sites in South Negros was done on June 25, 2015 at BFAR Provincial Fisheries Office for representatives from the municipalities of Bacong, Dauin and Dumaguete City. A briefing with the Municipal environment Officer (MENRO), Fisheries Technician and Peace Corps Volunteer of Zamboangita, Negros Oriental was also conducted last June 24, 2015.
- The Site Coordinator also joined the Municipal Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council (FARMC) and Basak MPA Management Committee meeting last June 26, 2015 in Zamboangita where she provided an overview of the project objectives and strategies. The fisherfolks were encouraged to participate in the national fisherfolk, gear and

boat registration programs. This also served as an avenue to present current and planned fisheries programs in the municipality.

- The team facilitated the first South Negros Core Group Meeting with BFAR, PLGU and LGU focal persons to assess EAFM implementation in 2014 and discuss roll-out activities for 2015 last February 10, 2015.
- On April 27-May 3, 2015, Save Philippine Seas (SPS), in partnership with the US Embassy Manila, held the Visayan Leg of the SEA (Sea and Earth Advocates) Camp in Siaton, Negros Oriental. This event gathered 30 of the most promising youth leaders of the Visayas region who have the potential to be leaders and change makers in the field of marine conservation.
- In May 2015, the participants presented an elevator pitch project proposal to two groups of panel/mentors where the ECOFISH Site Coordinator was a member. By the end of the camp, 10 SEA Camp participants were selected to receive small grants and implement project proposals with assistance from local partners and guidance from SPS.

Activities not accomplished and why:

- The targeted QRT Operations Planning for QRT 6 and 7 is postponed on December 2015 while the Training on the establishment of Network of MPAs and Training on inter-LGU zoning of fisheries and other uses of marine resources are scheduled on November 2015. The schedules were moved due to the unavailability of the resource persons and the need to conduct preliminary activities.
- The launching of 700 Daloy in Dumaguete City was scheduled back to back with a major activity in enforcement which was postponed in November of 2015 after the finalization and vetting of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of amended Fisheries Code, Republic Act 10654.
- The MPA network design training-workshop was postponed and schedule this November 2015.

Issues and concerns:

- In celebration of the annual Fish Conservation Week and Buglasan Festival of Negros Oriental, the ENRD has requested the ECOFISH Project to co-organize the first Marine Protected Area (MPA) Summit in the province on October 30, 2014. A series of preparatory meetings with BFAR - Provincial Fisheries Office and South Negros LGUs has been facilitated by ENRD and ECOFISH to brainstorm on the summit theme and topics. Unfortunately, three days before the proposed date, ENRD informed us to cancel the said activity. Much to our dismay, we immediately informed our partner LGUs and fisherfolk associations of the decision Governor Degamo. Nevertheless, a similar activity will be organized with BFAR for this year.
- Another major implementation issue is that the LGU Fisheries Technician for the Municipality of Sta. Catalina took an indefinite leave of absence from work. This leaves us with two LGUs (Municipalities of Sta. Catalina and Basay) with no fisheries focal persons which poses a challenge for EAFM implementation in these LGUs since nobody is initiating the planned activities.

Recommended courses of action:

- In year 4, there will be an accelerated effort to establish new Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), and attempt to form them into a network. There will be more support to environment-friendly enterprises that will generate revenues through Special Activities Fund and other mechanisms. These two main strategies should directly contribute to increase in fish biomass in focal areas, and an increase in people gaining employment or better employment in the MKBA.
- Site activities will focus on maintaining current governance benchmark levels for Sipalay, Bayawan and Hinoobaan while conscientious efforts in improving the governance benchmarks levels for Siaton, Sta. Catalina, Cauyan and Basay will be pursued through activities such as marine spatial planning, integrative enforcement and compliance promotions, building capacities of guards MPAs, goal-oriented fish catch monitoring, and local policy reviews for certain gears such as beach seine which is locally known as *sahid/baling*.
- The Project will also endeavor to capture and document best practices developed in the last two resulting from direct or indirect Project interventions. There will also be activities that will respond to clamor of LGUs for further improve pre-existing practices such as expansion of the Coastal Law Enforcement Council's (CLEC) for it to be more attuned to the goals of Ecosystems Approach to Fisheries Management.
- As an election year, activities will work around the schedules of technical people who will not be affected by political campaigns and appointment to avoid disruptions in field work and guarantee streams of meaningful activities involving site staff and support staff. There will also be strategies that will adapt to the volatility of political condition associated with campaigns and eventual turn-over of management. This will include strategic information, communication and education interventions targeting new political leaders and new administrative managers.

5.6. Surigao del Norte and Surigao del Sur MKBA

ECOFISH in Year 3 continued its focus on activities that are expected to generally contribute to the 10% increase in fish biomass and to the 10% increase in number of fishers gaining employment or better employment from improved fisheries management. These activities mainly include those that relate to strengthening MPA/fish sanctuary management, strengthening inter-agency cooperation on fishery law enforcement, and addressing municipal water boundary issues to strengthen fishery law enforcement. As to the increase in the number of fisherfolk that would benefit improved management in Surigao del Norte, ECOFISH identified and determined key POs that need organizational strengthening and social preparation. The Project also conducted the value chain study of mud crabs in Surigao del Norte to determine the status of mud crab production and trading and the ways by which marginal fishers involved in the chain may improve their economic conditions.

In Year 3, ECOFISH also conducted repeat activities such as the assessment and monitoring of the socioeconomic condition of fisherfolk communities in focal LGUs, fish catch monitoring, marine sanctuary monitoring, and EAFM/CRM/governance benchmarking. ECOFISH in Surigao

del Norte also contributed to activities of nationwide coverage, such as the drafting of the State of the Marine Resources Report, and the preparation of case studies on EAFM, MPA and climate change.

ECOFISH accomplished its planned activities in Year 3 in collaboration with BFAR Caraga through the Fisheries Resource Management Division, Quick Response Team and the Provincial Fishery Office; the Provincial Government of Surigao del Norte through the Provincial Agriculture Office, Provincial Environment and Management Office, Provincial Tourism Office and the Provincial Planning and Development Office; with local partners such as the DENR (PhilCCAP, SCREMP, CMMD), DILG, PNP/PNP-MG, the HIPADA-TAG/OMO and the focal/key LGUs in the MKBA.

The table below summarizes the status (O – ongoing; C – completed) of interventions and activities in the Surigao del Norte and Surigao del Sur MKBA under the various deliverables.

Surigao del Norte – Surigao del Sur MKBA				
Project Intervention/Activity	2015			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Deliverable 1: Policy Studies on EAFM, MPA, and Climate Change				
Conduct Bilateral Meetings re: municipal water boundary conflict resolution	C			
Deliverable 2: Toolkits, Sourcebooks, and Case Studies on EAFM, MPA, and CCA				
Draft outline of two case studies for Surigao del Norte.	O	O	O	O
Deliverable 4: State of the Marine Resources Report				
Participate in the drafting of SMRR.	O	C		
Deliverable 5: National, Regional and Municipal EAFM Trainings Conducted				
Training on the establishment of MPA network		O	O	O
Conduct one-day in-house training needs assessment for BFAR Caraga QRT	O	C		
Orientation on inter-LGU zoning of fisheries and other uses of marine waters		O	O	C
Orientation on right sizing of fishing efforts in focal areas			O	O
Training on climate change impact and vulnerability assessment (conduct climate vulnerability assessment)			O	O
Conduct fish examiner training	O	O	O	O
Deliverable 6: Public-Private Partnerships Supporting ECOFISH Objectives Established				
Identify potential PO partners .	O	C		
Identify potential NGO partners	O	O	O	O
Conduct scoping and organizational diagnosis (potential PO partners)	O	O	O	C
Conduct organizational strengthening / development (potential PO partners)	O	O	O	O
Deliverable 7: Bio-physical, Social and Economic Baseline Assessments of the 8 MKBAs				
Coordinate hiring of enumerators; meetings with local officials, POs and NGOs in preparation for the biophysical and socio-economic monitoring.	O	C		
Conduct of biophysical/underwater assessments		O	C	
Conduct fish monitoring surveys		O	C	
Conduct of the Socioeconomic household surveys		O	C	
Facilitate EAFM benchmarking for Year 2 (back to back with MEAT assessment)		O	C	

Deliverable 8: Scientific studies on selected MKBA-specific fish species				
Assessment and evaluation of viability of mariculture species				O
Mitigation measures for mariculture activities				O
Determination and presentation of appropriate species-specific management strategies to concerned LGUs	O	O	O	O
Drafting of policy instruments on species-specific management strategies	O	O	O	O
Establishment of appropriate fishing effort configuration.			O	O
Deliverable 9: MPA Network Analyses in the Eight MKBAs				
Provide technical assistance, coaching and mentoring for the validation of MEAT self-assessment outputs	O	C		
Conduct orientation and consultation on the establishment of MPAs - for areas without MPAs or need strengthening of existing MPAs	O	O	O	O
Facilitate identification of potential sites for the establishment of additional MPAs	O	O	C	
Coordinate consultation with stakeholders on the selection of MPA sites	O	O	C	
Facilitate strengthening of MPA management committees	O	O	O	O
Facilitate review of MPA management plans - for areas with existing MPAs or network of MPAs	O	O	O	O
Provide technical assistance to POs in the implementation of MPA or fish sanctuary management plans			O	O
Collaborate with BFAR, PNP-MG, PFO, PAO and PEMO in the deputization of PO members as fish wardens in managing MPAs or fish sanctuaries	O	O	O	O
Deliverable 10: Fisheries Management Plans of Select Inter-LGU Alliances in the Eight MKBAs				
Finalization of draft provincial CRM Framework Plan	O	O	O	O
Facilitate issuance of executive orders on the creation of municipal coastal law enforcement teams.	O	O	O	O
Conduct inter-agency consultation on mandates, protocols & procedures for law enforcement partners	O	C		
Conduct follow-up trainings on para-legal and fish/gear identification	O	O	C	
Facilitate issuance of executive orders on the creation of municipal CFRM technical working groups	O	O	O	C
Conduct consultations with HIPADA-LGUs on the drafting and formulation of coastal and fisheries resources management plans	O	O	O	O
Conduct consultation and review of existing municipal zoning plans of HIPADA-LGUs	O	O	O	C
Develop inter-LGU marine spatial zoning plan (fisheries and water use plan)			O	O
Establish appropriate fishing effort configuration				O
Deliverable 11: Registry of Users of Municipal Fishing Waters Established in Select Municipal LGUs in the 8 MKBAs				
Provide assistance to BFAR-Caraga in the conduct of FishR	C			
Inter-agency consultation with partners (MARINA, PNP-MG, PNP, PCG, BFAR, PAO and LGUs) on municipal fishing vessel registration	O	O		

Facilitate the conduct of training on EO 305 for municipal fishing vessel inspectors	O	O	O	O
Preparation / presentation of draft ordinance on municipal fishing vessel registration to FARMCS/SBs			O	O
Deliverable 12: Revenue Generation System for Fisheries Management Established and Effectively Implemented in Select LGUs				
Provide technical assistance to identified PO partners in the preparation of project proposals for 2016 GPB funding		O	O	O
Collection of financial data for the cost benefit studies	O	O	C	
Bravo Awards for Best MPA in Surigao del Norte			O	O
Deliverable 13: Sustainable Financing Programs for EAFM Implemented in Select LGUs in the MKBA				
Conduct Business Planning		O	O	O
Conduct Market Planning		O	O	O
Conduct Networks Survey in coastal barangays in all focal LGUs				O
Recruitment and training of research assistant for value chain studies	C			
Conduct surveys for value chain studies (Danggit / Rabbitfish)	O	O	C	
Writesop on value chain studies			C	

Highlights of Key Site-Level Activities/Accomplishments

- The ECOFISH team provided technical assistance to the LGUs of Tagana-an, Placer and Bacuag in the joint field validation and ocular inspection of coastal terminal points (CTP) in October 2014 as prerequisite to the delineation and delimitation of municipal waters between the HIPADA member municipalities. This activity led to the Signing of Joint Statement of Commitment between the LGUs of Bacuag-Placer and Placer-Tagana-an. Most coastal LGUs in Surigao del Norte have established and jointly validated coastal terminal points to date. HIPADA TAG and ECOFISH currently are in the process of seeking approval for mayors to sign joint statements of commitment. The boundary issues that remain to be resolved include those of Placer and Bacuag as well as those of Claver and Carrascal of the adjacent province of Surigao del Sur.
- ECOFISH presented the results of Tourists' Willingness-to-Pay (WTP) Survey in October 2014 during the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) Executive Committee Meeting at the Provincial Capitol in Dapa, Siargao Island, in collaboration with DENR. PAMB is in the process of finalizing user fee scheme for Siargao Island using the results of the Project's survey. As agreed in the PAMB meeting, ECOFISH in coordination with CENRO conducted a follow-up meeting exclusively on the WTP results in June 2015. ECOFISH was able to clarify important points in the survey. One is that the recommended rates of PhP 100 (for local tourists) and PhP 500 (for foreign tourists) are figures that came from the responses of about 600 local and foreign tourists interviewed in key locations in General Luna, Del Carmen and Dapa, and that these are the amount tourists are willing to contribute for the protection of the marine and coastal environment of the island. During said meeting, ECOFISH also assisted PAMB in the refinement of the draft resolution, especially on the provisions pertaining to the sharing of proceeds from the proposed user fees, system of collection, and what activities the funds will cover. ECOFISH incorporated as factor the natural features of key LGUs in the islands: Magpupungko Beach in Pilar;

Taktak Falls in Santa Monica; Adventure Park in San Isidro; Sugba Lagoon in Del Carmen; and Cloud 9 surfing spot, as well as white sandy beaches, sand bars and islands and MPA, in General Luna. ECOFISH is currently revising the draft resolution, integrating the agreements and results of this follow-up meeting, and is coordinating with DENR on the inclusion of the presentation of the revised draft resolution in the agenda of the next PAMB meeting in the last quarter of 2015. ECOFISH is likewise coordinating with the Provincial Tourism Office to discuss the revised resolution in view of the Provincial Revenue Code.

- The site team conducted field validation of MEAT (Management Effectiveness Assessment Tool) self-assessment outputs of the Tagana-an Marine Sanctuary 1 at Sitio California, Barangay Opong in October 2014 in coordination with the Provincial Agriculture Office (PAO), Provincial Environment Management Office (PEMO) and the Municipal

Agriculture Office (MAO)/LGU of Tagana-an. The team validated the MEAT self-assessment accomplished by the LGU representatives during the Marine Sanctuary Forum earlier in May 2014. The team consulted fisherfolks that manage the sanctuary, and explained the MPA MEAT as a tool that serves as guide for improving MPA management effectiveness using certain identified threshold activities, such as law enforcement, legislative support, IEC, and community participation, among others.



Fisherfolk and FARMC officials and members of the Tagana-an Marine Sanctuary respond to questions on site at the by PAO, ECOFISH and PEMO staff during an interview to examine documents that support claims in the score sheets accomplished in previous workshops

- In November 2014, ECOFISH provided technical assistance to the LGU of Gigaquit in refining its fish sanctuary related ordinances in relation to its Municipal CRM Code. With BFAR and PAO, ECOFISH attended the FARMC meeting regarding ordinances on Nagubat Fish Sanctuary, Cagban Fish Sanctuary and the proposed Borason Reef Fish Sanctuary, and on the management strategy for all three sanctuaries. The meeting ended with the agreement that BFAR/ECOFISH and PAO would re-asses and identify the core zone of the Nagubat Sanctuary, and that there would be only one community-based body to manage and patrol the three sanctuaries in Barangay Alambique. As agreed during this meeting, ECOFISH and PAO extended technical assistance to the LGU in delineating, zoning and mapping of Cagban, Burason and Nagubat Island fish sanctuaries on 15 November 2014. ECOFISH and PAO further assisted the LGU in the drafting of supplemental ordinance for the inclusion of Cagban, Burason and Nagubat Island fish sanctuaries to the existing Municipal CRM Code of Gigaquit.

- The enumerator hired by ECOFISH conducted the value chain study of mud crab in Surigao del Norte from November 2014 to May 2015. Mudcrab was selected for the study considering the expansive mangrove forests in the MKBA, most especially in Siargao Island. The study was aimed to determine the changes in the value (buying/selling price) of mud crabs from the source (wild/natural environment) through the different players involved in catching, growing/fattening, buying, trading, and exporting, until the mud crabs reach the consumer table. From the study, recommendations may be derived on how benefits may be shared among the players equitably, most especially among the catchers that are usually the ones that receive the least profit but with the most effort poured into the physical collection of crabs and/or crablets.



Local enumerators for value chain study interviews mud crab growers and traders in Gigaquit with PAO personnel Antonio Perral.

The study covered the whole of Siargao Island and identified key LGUs such as Del Carmen, Pilar, San Isidro, Santa Monica, General Luna and Socorro as the main sources of mud crabs. The study also identified major sources in the mainland that included Gigaquit and Placer, while Surigao City served as the trading centre. The study noted that the supply of mud crabs in Surigao del Norte has remained generally dependent on the wild, with a few POs and individual fishers that are engaged in growing and fattening of mud crabs. Although supply from the wild is seasonal and to some extent may be unreliable, traders however find advantage in the high quality of mud crabs from the wild that are preferred by exporters and markets abroad, like Singapore and China. Local partners such as the PAO, the LGUs and other foreign-funded projects such as B+WISER and the Philippine Cold Chain Project are interested in the results of the study that may be used as basis for possible livelihood interventions. In Collaboration with B+WISER and DENR, ECOFISH presented the results of the study to stakeholders in the Mangrove Forum on 30 July 2015 in Surigao City.

- ECOFISH participated in the launching of Barangay San Isidro Fish Sanctuary as PNP-Maritime's Adopt-a-Marine Protected Area (AMPA) Project Site in Surigao City on 03 December 2014. ECOFISH has been supporting AMPA Project in Surigao del Norte from the beginning of its implementation in the first quarter of 2014 by providing technical assistance in training activities and on-site coaching to the sanctuary management board, the LGU, and PNP-Maritime. Also present during the San Isidro AMPA Project Launching were BFAR Regional Director Nerio Casil, Surigao City Mayor Ernesto Matugas, PNP-

Maritime Chief PSSUPT Eugenio Malic, PNP-Maritime Station Chief 1301st Maritime PI Andres Banguel, Jr., City Agriculturist Isaias Ilumba, Surigao City personnel, with barangay council members of San Isidro and FARMC members.

- The site team assisted in the conducted of fish catch monitoring from February to May 2015, following the Enumerators' Training on Fish Catch Monitoring in January 2015 in Surigao City. The Project trained 10 enumerators that including mainly those hired from previous survey in Year 1 and 2 new recruits from Punta Bilar (Surigao City), and Barangay Alambique (Gigaquit). The previously hired enumerators were assigned in



Fish Catch Monitoring Trainees perform actual fish sampling at a major fish landing site in Surigao City during the early morning field exercises.

Barangay Sampaguita and Cawilan Island (Tagana-an); Banga Island (Placer); Poblacion (Bacuag); Nagubat Island (Gigaquit); and Barangay Panatao (Claver). The trainees also included a new encoder from Surigao City. Also among the participants were Agriculture Technologists for Fisheries from the focal LGUs essentially for partner LGUs to appreciate the value of fish catch monitoring and to possibly continue the monitoring activity on their own even beyond the duration of the Project in 2017. The enumerators conducted inventory of fishing boats and gears immediately after the training, and fish catch monitoring commenced in February and ended in May 2015. Encoding was completed in July 2015. Results of this year's fish catch monitoring will be compared with the results of the previous baseline assessment conducted in 2013.

- ECOFISH held a round table discussion (RTD) on Coastal and Fisheries Law Enforcement Issues on 17-18 February 2015 at Hotel Tavern, Surigao City, based on the results of Baseline Feedbacking and EAFM Framework Planning conducted in July last year that identified fishery law enforcement as the top priority issue in the Surigao del Norte MKBA. In the RTD, ECOFISH initially presented the results of the law enforcement assessment conducted in September 2013, highlighting the threat maps, capacity of local enforcement teams, proposed action plans and draft posters. Representatives from PNP-PPO, PNP-Maritime, PCG, the Philippine Navy, PEMO, BFAR-QRT, and the LGUs of Del Carmen and Claver provided local issues and updates on their respective law enforcement activities. Private sector representative and local environmentalist Jake Miranda also shared his personal account of persistent dynamite fishing and other destructive fishing practices both

in the mainland and Siargao Island areas. The RTD also identified key accomplishments of the agencies and their shared challenges. The activity was also highlighted by the presentations and discussions on Stakeholder Engagement and Some Lessons for the Enforcement Community by Major Jo-Arr Herrera of the Philippine Army, and on the enforcement model of the Province of Cebu by Mr. Jojo Merencillo of the Cebu Provincial Anti-Illegal Fishing Task Force (CPAIFTF). Another important discussion was on the BFAR's experience involving the Philippine Navy in the capture, confiscation and filing of cases against three illegal fishing operators in the last quarter of 2014, highlighting the co-ordination between BFAR and the Philippine Navy. The activity also included a plenary workshop on Building and Strengthening Inter-Agency Cooperation for Fishery Law Enforcement, where Major Herrera and Mr. Merencillo provided inputs that focused more on strategic considerations and other operational details in succeeding activities. At the end



BFAR Caraga Regional conducted a two-day activity calling for more cohesive efforts among partner agencies to curb destructive fishing activities in the area. This was joined in by Representatives from PNP-PPO, PNP-Maritime, PCG, the Philippine Navy, PEMO, BFAR-QRT, and the LGUs.

of the RTD, the partners came up with a draft operations plan for the inter-agency collaboration and agreed to meet again in a training activity, back-to-back with follow-up round table discussion. Provincial Prosecutor Atty Jesse Rey Salvosa closed the activity with a message calling for further and continued cooperation among the participating agencies. Among the participants also were representatives from the PNP SAF.

- ECOFISH conducted the second Socio Economic Survey from February to May 2015 in focal LGUs of Placer, Bacuag and Gigaquit, immediately following the Enumerators' Training on 16-17 February 2015 at the Hotel Tavern, Surigao City. Mostly new recruits, there were only two (2) returnees from Gigaquit out of the 11 enumerators. The survey covered nearly 500 respondents from the three focal municipalities. The decrease in the number of respondents from more than 500 in the previous survey was noted to be due to mortality, migration and shift in economic activities, mainly from fishing to mining.
- The site team conducted the BFAR FLeQRT Capacity and Team Building in June 2015 as a follow-up activity consistent with the previous Round Table Discussions held in February 2015 that emphasized the need for collaboration among CLE partners including the private sector to effectively address persistent illegal and destructive fishing activities in the MKBA. This training activity was the first in a series of five trainings that the Project has

committed to BFAR. This training primarily aimed to strengthen BFAR's in-house law enforcement arm, as well as its ties with partner CLE agencies such as the Philippine National Police/PNP-Maritime Group, Special Action Force, Philippine Coast Guard, Philippine Navy and the Philippine Army, and the respective enforcement teams of focal



Participants from BFAR Caraga and partner law enforcement agencies update and validate threat maps in workshop session, and follow instructions from facilitators in team building exercises during the BFAR FLeQRT Capacity and Team Building on 16-19 June 2015 at the Gateway Hotel, Surigao City

LGUs, such as Surigao City, Tagana-an, Placer, Bacuag, Gigaquit and Claver. More than 40 participants attended this activity and identified the succeeding trainings needed to enhance their skills and capabilities to respond to the threats in the MKBA.

- The ECOFISH site team conducted organisational diagnoses (OD) of key POs on 27-29 June 2015 in mainland Surigao del Norte. These POs include the Taganaan Aqua-Marine Products Producer Association (TAMPPA) of Tagana-an, Barangay Alambique Fisherfolk Association (BAFA) of Gigaquit and Bacuag Fisherfolk Association (BAFA) of Bacuag. ECOFISH in collaboration with the PAO and LGUs have identified these POs as key organisations in marine sanctuary management, law enforcement and livelihood projects in their respective municipalities. These POs have already been existing for an average of 7-10 years, but OD however revealed that they may need re-orientation and strengthening as most, if not all, foreign-funded livelihood projects handled by these organisations have been unsuccessful. They may technically be described as inactive, having been unable to call assembly meetings for years to date. They expressed willingness to attend two-day trainings to strengthen their organizations, that will include value formation, EAFM orientation, VMG, among others.
- ECOFISH formalized collaboration with the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) through a MOU, to assist fisherfolk by providing skills training, materials and equipment as PCA counterpart, and social preparation and CO assistance as ECOFISH counterpart. ECOFISH and PCA conducted a PO-LGU consultations on enterprise development interventions in Siargao Island on 01-02 July 2015 in Pilar, San Isidro, Del Carmen & Santa Monica, and received positive feedbacks from POs and LGUs to participate in the production of coco nets, coco virgin oil and coco sugar. POs consulted included: (1) Purok 5 Inland Fisherfolk Association of San Isidro; (2) Alegria Farmers and Fisherfolks Association (ALFFA) & (3)

Garcia Peoples Development Organization of Santa Monica; (4) CPAP of Pilar; and (5) DELCASAMAMA of Del Carmen. Santa Monica Mayor Fernando Dolar committed to provide transportation of PO participants from the municipality to the venue of the planned trainings.

- Conducted the Orientation Trainings on EAFM & Values Formation for select POs at the San Isidro Labrador Heritage Hall in San Isidro, Siargao Island on 28-29 August 2015, and at the Sangguniang Bayan Session Hall in Gigaquit on 31 August to 01 September 2015. Consistent with the collaboration with the PCA, ECOFISH in this training oriented a total of 69 PO officials & members with representatives from eight (8) LGUs, namely: Dapa, Del Carmen, Pilar, San Isidro and Santa Monica, in Siargao Island; and Bacuag, Gigaquit & Tagana-an, in mainland Surigao del Norte. Through letters of commitment, POs signified their agreement to complete the 12 trainings as part of social preparation for enterprise development interventions. Other training modules lined up for the POs include Gender Sensitivity & Leadership, VMG & Leadership, Financial Management, Business & Market Planning, Team Building, Negotiation and Conflict Management, and Advocacy and Networking, and IEC.



The ECOFISH Team with the PAO and PCA updates the federated POs of Centro Fisherfolk Association, Punta Fisherfolk Association, Asinan Fisherfolk Association and Pilarin Fisherfolk Association of Pilar on the status of the Project's collaboration on the proposed coco-based projects in Siargao Island.

- Conducted a Consultation-Workshop for the Management of the Siganids (Danggit) in Surigao del Norte MKBA at the Gateway Hotel on 17 September 2015, to generally solicit local partners' knowledge on the life history, habitat, and spawning behavior of Siganids in Surigao del Norte MKBA, and to identify viable options for the management of Siganids in the area. A total of 45 participants attended, that included fishers, MAOs, ATs and SB members from Tagana-an, Claver, Bacuag, and Placer. Next steps include presentation to FARMCs of respective resolutions proposing closed season, and study of options to compensate affected fishers, considering danggit fishing is a primary source of livelihood in certain barangays such as Barangay Day-asan in Surigao City, or provision of alternative livelihood for the period, possibly from the concerned LGUs, BFAR, and/or DSWD. The LGUs, ECOFISH, BFAR and partners in this regard will determine the number and list of

fisher families that will be directly affected by the proposed two-month close season. Participants further agreed to synchronize the closure among the concerned LGUs, and to conduct IEC activities to inform communities of the economic and ecological significance of the close season and prepare them for its implementation.

Unplanned activities:

None

Activities not accomplished and why:

- Delineation of municipal water boundaries has not been completed yet due to issues between Placer and Bacuag, and between Claver and Carrascal of the adjacent province of Surigao del Sur. The conflicting LGUs continue to hold on to their positions not to agree on the coastal terminal points.
- PPP-Business Planning Training and pilot testing of Smart-DILG-DA-DOTC PPP are national / head office - initiated activities. These activities were not accomplished due to consideration generally on budget and schedules.
- Fish Examiner Training was not conducted because the BFAR held off the training program to review the training module.
- The Networks Survey was not conducted due to changes in priorities at the national level and/or lack of funds to cover coastal barangays in focal LGUs in the MKBA. As to the technical assistance to identified PO partners in the preparation of project proposals for 2016 GPB funding, ECOFISH in Surigao del Norte instead explored additional options with BFAR, PCA and DSWD.
- Review with HIPADA TAG / OMO the proposed uniform MFO and existing draft municipal ordinances to consider inclusion of administrative adjudication and RA 10654. Presentation of draft ordinance to the FARMC may have to be re-scheduled for next year.

Issues and concerns:

- With the forthcoming elections, the Provincial Governor understandably prefers soft enforcement through livelihood projects that would hopefully encourage illegal fishers to abandon destructive fishing practices. Although the goals and objectives of the Project fall within the Governor's development program, she finds it unnecessary to champion the creation of a provincial/inter-agency law enforcement task force and would rather leave the hard enforcement part to BFAR as the lead agency, with other key law enforcement agencies such as the PNP-MG, PCG and PN.
- A string of other related issues makes fishery law enforcement doubly challenging as local leaders have for years been noted to interfere with the judicial process in the area, generally resulting to dismissal of cases filed against illegal fishers, and thus discouraging law enforcers to pursue offenders. Furthermore, PNP-Maritime's limited resources in terms of manpower, facilities and equipment restrains its capacity to cover and protect the area from persistent destructive and illegal fishing activities.

- LGUs generally continue to give lesser priority to fisheries and CRM. They may appreciate the profits from fish catch and harvests, but seem to have very little interest in management, protection and conservation of their fisheries resources and coastal and marine environment. It is common knowledge locally for example that the municipality of Placer is the hub of *liba-liba* fishing. This LGU has continued to cuddle *liba-liba* operators for years understandably because it easily profits from them.
- Mining also remains a big but considerably silent issue, as it evidently affects adjacent marine ecosystems, while monetary benefits muffle the complaints of affected communities. The physical growth and progress brought about by mining cannot be ignored so that local leaders understandably welcome mining in certain areas.

Recommended courses of action:

- As the Project progresses, issues and concerns in the MKBA increasingly require inter-LGU and inter-agency collaboration. Hence, in the following quarters, ECOFISH will strengthen its ties with the HIPADA-TAG primarily to enhance participation and cooperation of LGUs to address shared concerns and problems in fisheries and coastal resource management. In the second half of 2015, the Project plans to update the HIPADA-TAG alongside other local partners such as the PEMO, PAO and BFAR, specifically on concerns pertaining to delineation of municipal water boundaries, uniform municipal fishery ordinance, marine spatial planning, formulation of CRM plans, and law enforcement, among a host of other CRM and EAFM-related issues and concerns.
- ECOFISH will also continue strengthening inter-agency cooperation by providing the venue for law enforcement agencies such as the PNP, PNP-Maritime, PCG, PN, BFAR-QRT and the PEMO, to discuss issues on illegal and destructive fishing activities and improve protocols and procedures to make the cooperation more responsive to the prevailing situation in fishery and coastal law enforcement. This will also include briefing the Provincial Government, through the Provincial Administrator, on the role of the PEMO as a coordinating center for the partner agencies in law enforcement, that may not necessarily require taking the frontline in actual law enforcement operations.

5.7. Tawi-Tawi MKBA

The Tawi-Tawi project team revisited the existing MPA network established during the FISH Project and conducted evaluation using MPA Management Evaluation and Assessment Tool (MEAT) to determine the status of the individual MPAs and identify activities to strengthen them and revive the network. The team also conducted assessments to identify sites appropriate for establishment of additional MPAs, particularly in the municipalities of Tandubas, Sapa-Sapa, and South Ubian. The project prioritized activities that focus on the establishment of marine protected areas, strengthening of coastal law enforcement teams, and capacity building on policy and governance.

In Year 3, the Tawi-Tawi team started put upfront activities that will contribute to the final project outcome, namely: those that will lead to increase in fisheries biomass and increase in the number of people gaining employment or better employment from sustainable fisheries

management. MPA establishment and activities that will enhance fishery law enforcement efforts remained on top of the agenda. In addition, the team focused on capacity building of partners and movers for fisheries management. ECOFISH supported the cross visit of key provincial and municipal government officials and people's organizations to selected sites and LGUs in the Province of Cebu that have successful fisheries and coastal resource management programs.

The table below summarizes the status (O – ongoing; C – completed) of interventions and activities in Tawi-Tawi MKBA under the various deliverables.

Tawi-Tawi MKBA				
Project Intervention/Activity	2015			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Deliverable 1: Policy Studies on EAFM, MPA, and Climate Change				
Review and refinement of existing ordinances on fisheries resource management.	O	C		
Assessment of the need for training on crafting of ordinances.	O	O	C	
Training on the drafting of fisheries ordinances and other basic local legislations.	O	O	O	O
Deliverable 2: Toolkits, Sourcebooks, and Case Studies on EAFM, MPA, and CCA				
Provide outline and collected materials for the case studies.	O	O	C	
Deliverable 4: State of the Marine Resources Report				
Participate in the drafting of SMRR.		C		
Deliverable 5: National, Regional and Municipal EAFM Trainings Conducted				
Inter-LGU basic compliance promotion and enforcement training.	O	O	O	O
Training on Operations Planning of inter-LGU enforcement teams.			O	O
Inter-LGU training on marine spatial zoning.			O	
Supported training on the establishment of registration and licensing system (boats and gears).		O	O	O
PCRA training for the new municipalities in the focal area.				O
Reproduction of Fatwa and other IEC materials.	O	O	O	O
EAFM orientation for BFAR-ARMM regional team.			O	O
Provide assistance in sending of participant/s to the Fish Examiners' Training for selected partners.			O	O
Deliverable 6: Public-Private Partnerships Supporting ECOFISH Objectives Established				
Road show of 700DALOY to the different stakeholders/partners (DepEd, religious leaders, provincial government).			O	O
Identify candidate for specialty products or commodities for possible enterprise development in Tawi-Tawi.	O	O	C	
Deliverable 7: Bio-physical, Social and Economic Baseline Assessments of the 8 MKBAs				
Coordinate hiring of enumerator; meetings with local officials, POs, and NGOs in preparation for the biophysical and socio-economic monitoring.	O	C		
Provide administrative and technical assistance to the team in the conduct of biophysical and socio-economic monitoring.	O	O	C	
Conduct benchmarking and enforcement assessment exercises.	C			

Deliverable 8: Scientific Studies on Select MKBA-Specific Fish Species				
Consultation meeting with stakeholders on species-specific or gear-specific scientific studies (identification of species-specific or fishing gear studies based on results of baseline assessment).	C			
Collection of primary data of identified species-specific studies and secondary information for the species-specific or gear-specific studies.	O	O	C	
Consultation-meeting with BFAR, LGU and stakeholders on species-specific and fishing gear management.			O	O
Deliverable 9: MPA Network Analyses in the Eight MKBAs				
Provide assistance in re-organizing and strengthening of MPA management bodies of existing MPAs.	O	O	O	O
Provide assistance in strengthening the Tawi-Tawi Fish Bay Sanctuary Alliance (TTFBSA).	O	O	O	O
Provide assistance in the coordination and mobilization of participants in the conduct of enforcement training for MPA enforcement to coincide with the basic Fishery Law Enforcement training.	O	O	O	O
Provide assistance during coordination and mobilization of participants for the enforcement training of MPA enforcement team to coincide with the basic Fishery Law Enforcement (MPA training for AMPA sites).		O	O	O
Intensify IEC campaign (explore different possibilities - religious intervention, radio station, ILTO mobilization, Smart).	O	O	O	C
Deliverable 10: Fisheries Management Plans of Select Inter-LGU Alliances in the Eight MKBAs				
Establishment and strengthening of fisheries law enforcement teams.	O	O	O	O
Establishment of inter-LGU fisheries law enforcement teams.		O	O	C
Cross site visit (<i>Lakbay-aral</i>) to successful CRM sites.		C		
Inter-LGU fisheries management planning.		O	O	O
Inter-LGU marine spatial planning (fisheries and water use planning).			O	O
Support in the formation/organization of Municipal Coastal Law Enforcement Teams for new sites and issuance of authorization including facilitation of 1-day regular meeting – Tawi-Tawi SBU.	O	O	O	O
Deliverable 11: Registry of Users of Municipal Fishing Waters Established in Select Municipal LGUs in the 8 MKBAs				
Monitor and provide technical assistance in the implementation of FishR activities.		C		
Facilitate in the conduct of training on EO 305 for municipal fishing vessel inspector training.		O	O	O
Provide assistance on the development of policy to support registration and licensing of municipal fishing boat and gears.			O	O
Deliverable 12: Revenue Generation System for Fisheries Management Established and Effectively Implemented in Select LGUs				
Inventory of annual CRM revenues/costs from LGUs.		C		
Generate data in support for user's fee scheme.			C	
Deliverable 13: Sustainable Financing Programs for EAFM Implemented in Select LGUs in the 8 MKBAs				

FGD with LGUs and key partners for the identification of possible sustainable financing program.	C			
Identification of sustainable financing program.		C		

Highlights of Key Site-Level Activities/Accomplishments

- ECOFISH team in Tawi-Tawi conducted Fish Catch Baseline Assessment and Socio-Economic Baseline Assessment feedbacking and EAFM Planning in Zamboanga City in October 2014.. This was attended by the representatives of the 6 municipalities of the focal area of the project, 6 BFAR Tawi-Tawi Municipal Fishery Coordinators, Tawi-Tawi Provincial Fishery Office, and Hon. Hja. Sitti Rahiema Salih, Mayor of Tandubas, as the only local chief executive in attendance. EAFM Planning was done and 3-priority areas for implementation were identified: 1) creation of Inter-LGU alliance; 2) delineation of municipal boundaries and zoning; 3) economic incentives.



Presentation of baseline survey results and the fisheries management planning with participants from local government of the focal area municipalities in Tawi-Tawi..

- In December 2014, the site team conducted the first inter-LGU meeting in Bongao for the 6 municipalities in the focal area. Attended by the different LGU partners and hosted by the Municipal Mayor of Panglima Sugala, Hon. Rejie M. Sahali-Generale.
- The site team assisted in the conduct of Fish Catch Monitoring Orientation in February 2015, with Ian Tajonera and Joselito Fragillano as facilitator and trainer respectively. Afterwards, the site staff monitored and supervised the actual conduct of the three-month catch monitoring including administrative support.
- ECOFISH Tawi-Tawi assisted in the conduct of Socio-Economic Survey Orientation conducted by Ms. Rina Rosales together with her team in March 2015 and monitored the conduct of the socioeconomic household surveys in selected sampling sites.
- In May 2015, the Site Coordinator and CRS coordinated the cross-visit of the key provincial and municipal officials of Tawi-Tawi in the Province of Cebu to observe and learn about best practices in fisheries and coastal resource management programs in the area. One of the highlights of the visit was the sharing of success story by Mayor Garin of Oslob primarily about his passion for the marine environment and how he changed the negative attitude of his people towards the marine environment.

- The site team assisted Save Philippines Seas in the conduct of SEAcamp Mindanao Leg in Tawi-Tawi in May 2015.
- In June 2015, the site team conducted courtesy visits to LGUs of Tandubas, Sapa-Sapa, and



Meeting with the Mayor of Dalaguete during the cross visit / A token from Tawi-Tawi (Chili Hot Moro of Simunul and Cookies from Bongao) and certificate of appreciation was given by the First Lady of Tawi-Tawi Madam Annabel Sahali and Hon. Mavor Hia. Sitti Rahiema Salih of Tandubas. Tawi-Tawi

South Ubian with ocular inspection of MPAs established by PBSP (Phil. Business Sector of the Philippines) and BUB (Bottom-Up Budgeting) of LGU.

- Also in June 015, the team facilitated the re-organization of the Municipal Coastal Law Enforcement Team (MCLET of Bongao municipality and Orientation of LGUs on BoatR Registration.
- From June to July 2015, the team visited and facilitated the re-organization of the Management Committees of various MPAs in Barangay Ipil, Barangay Ungus-Ungus, Barangay Lagasan and Pababag in Bongao.
- From November 2014 to June 2015, the site team supervised the conduct of the Value Chain Analysis for Blue Swimming Crab in the selected barangays of the municipalities of Panglima Sugala, Sitangakai, Tandubas, Sapa-Sapa, and Bongao. The team also conducted different activities like meeting with the mayor of the selected areas, reconnaissance of the areas, and assisted in data collection.
- The team assisted in the conducted organizational and planning meeting with the “I love the Ocean” Youth Movement in November 2015.
- The team supported and facilitated MCLET meeting of Panglima Sugala and also the MCLET meeting of Bongao in September 2015.



Pulong-pulong with community (fisherfolks) at South Ubian. MPA establishment and management were the main topics discussed.

Unplanned activities:

- Organized a coastal clean-up event in barangays Simandagit and Pasiagan in celebration of the Coral Triangle Day. This was participated in by Bongao LGU, BFAR, Tawi-Tawi Divers Club, Philippine Marines (MBLT-5), and PNP Maritime Group.
- Participated in the formulation of the draft 5-year Provincial Seaweed Development Plan conducted by BFAR-ARMM Region and supported by the provincial government. This was participated by the seaweed farmers, traders, DTI, municipal representatives from the 10 municipalities and ECOFISH.
- Provided assistance to LGU South Ubian in the preparation of project proposals on fisheries for the BuB of BFAR ARMM Regional Office. Among the projects identified by the LGU of South Ubian are the establishment of 3 MPAs, mangrove reforestation, provision of motorized bancas and provision of fishing paraphernalia. Other LGUs supported by BFAR in the BuB are Bongao and Simunul. Bongao has proposed for the construction of a fish landing facility and Simunul has proposed various fisheries activities.
- Participated in the celebration of Sheik Makhdum Day with BFAR and other partners.
- Continued participation on clean-up Drive of Bud Bongao spearheaded by the PNP-MG/MSOU. This activity is done every other Sunday. The objectives are 1) To clean the Bud Bongao area; 2) To influence mountain climbers to become more responsible individual by not littering garbage on the mountain; 3) To educate climbers on environment and its benefits to the people.

Activities not accomplished and why:

None

Issues and concerns:

None

Recommended courses of action:

None

5.8. Verde Island Passage MKBA

In Years 1 and 2 ECOFISH conducted a series of activities with partners to identify the appropriate courses of action to effectively implement EAFM. A particular intervention identified is a proposed closed season for small pelagics that include the participation of commercial fishers and fishing operators, municipal fisherfolks, LGU officials, NGOs, POs, and other stakeholders. The series of consultations was a collaboration between ECOFISH, the PGENRO and Conservation International. Likewise, the team made use of the results of the CLE and EAFM benchmarking to guide the other early management interventions and capacity building.

In Year 3, most project activities were in support of inter-LGU interventions such as marine spatial planning, municipal fishing boats and gear registration and licensing, inter-LGU fisheries management planning, and strengthening of MPA and enforcement networks.

The box below summarizes the status (O – ongoing; C – completed) of various interventions and activities under deliverables.

Verde Island Passage MKBA				
Project Intervention/Activity	2015			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Deliverable 1: Policy Studies on EAFM, MPA, and Climate Change				
Support in the formulation and approval of local ordinance for the seasonal closure of small pelagics in Balayan Bay.	C			
Collect and consolidate secondary data on Administrative Adjudication and related materials.	O	O	O	O
Deliverable 2: Toolkits, Sourcebooks, and Case Studies on EAFM, MPA, and CCA				
Provide outline and assist in the writing the case studies.	O	C		
Deliverable 4: State of the Marine Resources Report				
Participate in the drafting of SMRR.	O	O	O	O
Deliverable 5: National, Regional and Municipal EAFM Trainings Conducted				
Coordinate with partners the conduct of Fish Examiners' Training for municipalities in the focal area.	O	O	O	O
Facilitate Basic CLE Training for PNP.				C
Facilitate training of the BERT/PNP on plotting and use of GPS leading to certification by NAMRIA.	O	O	O	O
Provide technical assistance to PNP Maritime Group to support the Adopt an MPA Program of the PNP-MG.		C		
Assist BFAR and OPA in the training and reactivation of FARMCs.		C		
Deliverable 6: Public-Private Partnerships Supporting ECOFISH Objectives Established				
Provide support for the formalization of a strategic partnership.	O	O	C	
Facilitate the Launching of 700DALOY.	O	O	O	O
Facilitate the presentation of OD results to partner LGUs.	C			
Provide technical and administrative assistance during the Business Planning and Partnership Training Workshops.		O	O	O
Assist in the mobilization and conduct of business planning workshops.	O	O	O	O
Deliverable 7: Bio-physical, Social and Economic Baseline Assessments of the 8 MKBAs				
Coordinate hiring of enumerators; meetings with local officials, POs, and NGOs in preparation for the biophysical and socio-economic monitoring.	O	C		
Provide administrative and technical assistance in the conduct of biophysical and socio-economic monitoring.	O	C		
Conduct benchmarking and enforcement assessment exercises.			C	
Deliverable 8: Scientific Studies on Select MKBA-Specific Fish Species				

IEC development workshop in support for the seasonal closure in Balayan Bay.	C			
Provide technical support in training of partners to monitor the effects of seasonal closure for small pelagics.			C	
Assess and evaluate the viability of mariculture species in Verde Island Passage.			O	O
Establish mitigation measure for mariculture activities in Verde Island Passage.			O	O
Establishment of appropriate fishing effort configuration.				O
Deliverable 9: MPA Network Analyses in the Eight MKBAs				
Conduct orientation and consultation on the establishment of MPAs - for areas without MPAs or need strengthening of existing MPAs.	O	O	O	C
Facilitate identification of potential sites for the establishment MPAs.	O	C		
Coordinate consultation with stakeholders on the selection of MPA sites.	O	C		
Facilitate strengthening of MPA management committees.	O	O	O	O
Facilitate Wildlife Enforcement Training for MPA rangers.	O	O	O	O
Provide assistance in the conduct of MPA evaluation and assessment – for areas with existing MPAs or network of MPAs.			C	
Assist in the establishment of new MPAs/fish sanctuaries as well as drafting of ordinances.		O	C	
Deliverable 10: Fisheries Management Plans of Select Inter-LGU Alliances in the Eight MKBAs				
Facilitate the review of inter-LGU fisheries management plan (for those MKBAs with existing inter-LGU fisheries management plan).		O	O	O
Conduct CLE assessment workshop.		O	O	O
Identify a service provider under SAF to provide technical and/or legal support to strengthen the municipal enforcement team/s.			C	
Seminar for local judges/prosecutors on fishery law enforcement and environmental cases procedures.			C	
Provide technical assistance and coordination in the formulation of Integrated CFRMP (consultations, orientations and planning).	O	O	O	O
Coordinate and conduct consultative meeting and planning workshop for the formulation of Integrated CFRM Plan.	O	O	O	O
Assist LGUs in the zoning and spatial planning of zones for economic uses and reduce use conflicts.			C	
Deliverable 11: Registry of Users of Municipal Fishing Waters Established in Select Municipal LGUs in the 8 MKBAs				
Conduct orientation on the registration of fishing boats and licensing of fishing gears or fishing operation.	O	C		
Facilitate training of municipal fishing boat registration leading to certification/accreditation as municipal vessel inspectors (MVI) in collaboration with MARINA, PCG and BFAR.	O	C		
Conduct of inter-agency and/or inter-LGU meetings related to municipal vessel registration.	O	C		

Deliverable 12: Revenue Generation System for Fisheries Management Established and Effectively Implemented in Select LGUs				
Assist in the development of sustainable financing schemes with partner LGUs (particularly on user's fees, resource rents for mangroves and beaches, environmental fees, aquaculture and mariculture projects and other related projects).	O	O	O	O
Data gathering on existing local legislations, licensing system and economic use zones.	O	O	O	O
Facilitate the conduct of public consultations for users' fee.	O	O	O	O
Assist in identification for replication of other users' fee schemes.		O	O	O
Deliverable 13: Sustainable Financing Programs for EAFM Implemented in Select LGUs in the 8 MKBAs				
Conduct collection of annual CRM revenues and cost/income statements for all the LGUs (in support to cost-benefit analysis of Fisheries Management).		O	O	O
Provide technical and administrative assistance in the conduct of economic value chain studies of important species.		C		
Identify and hire Research Assistants for the Value Chain Studies.	C			
Provide assistance in preparations for the Training for Value Chain Studies.	C			
Provide assistance in preparations for the Writeshop for Value Chain Studies.			C	
Coordinate and organize business planning workshop focusing on the translation of Fisheries Management Plan into business plan.		C		
Assist in business planning workshop and documentation of enterprises developed.		O	O	O
Assist in documentation of pilot testing of enterprises developed.		O	O	O
Assist in conduct of Net-Works Surveys for the coastal barangays.	O	O	O	O

Highlights of Key Site-Level Activities/Accomplishments

- The Verde Island Passage site team provided technical assistance to BFAR 4A Provincial Fisheries Office (PFO) in the conduct of Orientation for Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council (FARMC) members from Balayan Bay municipalities in October 2014.
- In preparation for the seasonal closure for small pelagics ECOFISH conducted in November 2014 an Information, Education and Communication (IEC) workshop attended by participants from 9 LGUs that will participate in the closed season.
- For the seasonal closure in Balayan Bay (*Pagpapahinga ng Look ng Balayan*), ECOFISH provided technical and policy support, and facilitated livelihood support for the implementation of the first-ever inter-LGU enforced seasonal closure. Nine LGUs of Balayan Bay agreed to enforce the closure in December 2014, based on the scientific and policy recommendations of ECOFISH. Through the project's representation with DSWD, a complementary cash-for-work program was implemented for affected fishing boat crew who temporarily stopped fishing during the closure.

- The ECOFISH VIP team provided technical assistance to PGENRO in the reactivation of the Batangas Environmental Response Team (BERT) by facilitating the BERT workshops to review, refine and finalize their Operational Plan.



Former ECOFISH Chief of Party Mr. Gerry Silvestre delivered his message of support during the formal launching/start of the Balayan Closed Season last December 11, 2014 held at Balayan, Batangas.

- In January 2015, the site team sponsored a “Story Telling” activity to allow the partners to share their experiences in the implementation of the closed season. The activity was participated by selected individuals from 9 partner LGUs, small and commercial fisherfolks, Bantay Dagat, PNP and Philippine Coastguard.
- Also in January 2015, the team provided technical and logistical assistance to BFAR 4A and Provincial Fisheries Office in the conduct of a Joint Mobile Registration and Licensing (JMRL) for the Commercial Fishing Vessels in Lemery, Batangas.
- The site team provided assistance during the training of 13 local enumerators for socioeconomic surveys from the municipalities of Tingloy, Mabini and Calatagan in February 2015.



Members of the Batangas Environmental Response Team (BERT) during the two workshops for the review and finalization of their Operational Plan (OPLAN).

- The team coordinated the conduct of Paralegal Orientation for members of MPA management councils of Calatagan, Batangas last February 2015. Fifteen old and new members of MPA were given orientation on fisheries laws and legal procedures.

- The local team provided assistance to MERF in the conduct of training on fish catch monitoring for enumerators and partners last February 2015 in Calatagan, Batangas.
- Consultations and site visits for the proposed areas of MPA establishment and expansion for the municipalities of Taal, San Luis, Tingloy and Calatagan were facilitated by the site team.
- The VIP team hosted and provided assistance during the study tour of San Bernardino Strait LGUs in the Batangas Verde Island Passage MKBA in February 2015. The 25 study tour participants made a courtesy call to Gov. Vilma Santos-Recto and also visited Mabini, Calatagan, Taal, and Balayan municipalities where they discussed about the coastal environmental programs in Balayan Bay including the seasonal closure for small pelagics in the bay.
- ECOFISH provided technical assistance to BFAR Region 4A in organizing the Integrated Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council (IFARMC) for Balayan Bay last also in February 2015.
- In March 2015, ECOFISH conducted the Marine Spatial Planning training for the cluster of municipalities in Balayan Bay. The training was attended and participated by Municipal Planning Development Officers (MPDO), Municipal Agriculturists, Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council Chairpersons, Bantay Dagat chairperson from 9 focal municipalities in Balayan Bay area, Philippine Port Authority (PPA), Office of the Provincial Agriculture (OPA) and 2 representatives from the Partnership in Environmental Management in the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA).
- The team conducted a review of the benchmarks of the municipalities of Tingloy, Mabini, Lemery, Balayan, Calatagan, Calaca , San Luis, Taal and Bauan in May 2015.
- In June 2015, ECOFISH sponsored the Batangas Coastal and Marine Law Enforcement Forum for judges, prosecutors and enforcement groups to identify issues and gaps in fishery law enforcement. The forum was attended by regional and municipal judges and prosecutors from coastal municipalities of Batangas.



Participants of the 2-day Batangas Coastal and Marine Law Enforcement Forum for Judges and Prosecutors.

- The Site Coordinator and CRS provided assistance to the GIS specialist in the conduct of field validation in the municipal waters of Calatagan, Balayan, Calaca, Lemery, San Luis, Taal, Bauan, Mabini and Tingloy. The field validation is a continuing activity of the Marine

Spatial Planning conducted last March 2015, attended and participated in by MA/MAOs, MPDC, BD and FARMC Chairs and other concerned government agencies.

- The team conducted a training needs assessment and Leahy vetting orientation to members of BFAR-4A Quick Response Team in June 2015. This activity was in preparation for the Capability Building activity for QRT members.
- Between July and September 2015, the site team provided technical and logistical assistance to PGENRO in the conduct of the Technical Working Group (TWG) meetings to discuss and planned out the 2nd round of Balayan Bay Closed Season for 2015 and in the conduct of the Batangas Recognition Awards for Outstanding Verde Island Passage (BRAVO) Marine Protected Areas and Enforcement.
- The Site Coordinator and CRS provided assistance to MERF staff in the conduct of Gear Inventory orientation to 6 enumerators in July 2015.
- The M&E and CRM specialist and the site team conducted series of focus group discussions with the beach seines fishers from August to September 2015. This activity was to determine the methods, gears and how many are engaged in beach seine fishing in the Balayan Bay area.
- In September 2015, the site team provided technical assistance to PGENRO and Malampaya Foundation in the presentation of the result of biophysical surveys through Reef Check during the regular session of the municipal council of Taal, Batangas. The Biophysical surveys through Reef Check was conducted at the proposed marine protected area of the LGU of Taal, Batangas.
- Also in September 2015, the CRM specialist and the site team conducted a training for 4 enumerators on catch, effort and gonad data collection to monitor the effect of the seasonal closure for small pelagics in the Verde Island Passage. The training aimed to equip the enumerators of basic skills and knowledge in identification of small pelagic fish species,



Participants of the 3-day CLE Training for PNP of Batangas together with the Provincial Director PSSupt. Omega Jireh D. Fidel, ECOFISH Deputy Chief of Party Marlito Guidote and Ms. Loretta Sollestre, Sr. Planning and Development Officer and CRM Specialist of Batangas PGENRO.

various types of fishing gears, and fish sampling methods including the collection of biological information.

- In September 2015, the DCOP and site team conducted the Coastal Law Enforcement Training for 32 chief of police investigators of PNP Batangas province. The training was aimed to strengthen police investigators' knowledge on fishery laws, legal procedures and proper boarding procedures.

Unplanned activities:

- Provided technical assistance to the German Institute for Development - Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE) in documenting the result of Balayan Bay Closed Season. DIE made the Balayan Bay Closed Season as a case study site of their Postgraduate Training Programme.

Activities not accomplished and why:

- Fish examiners training for Batangas was postponed and is still waiting for the conduct of a National level fish examiners training and resolution of BFAR QRT issues.

Issues and concerns:

None

Recommended courses of action:

None

6. Performance Synopsis

Table 3 summarizes the major performance indicators, life of project targets, Year 3 targets and actual Year 3 accomplishments to date of the ECOFISH Project

Overall, the project has largely exceeded targets for the midterm. The number of national and local EAFM training courses conducted, number of persons trained, and number of person-hours of training on EAFM, MPA, and CCA have exceeded the targets. This is largely because a number of orientation, assessment and evaluation workshops were transformed into full-blown training programs. Also, some sites are more advanced than others and training activities intended for later years, such as planning for network of MPAs and spatial planning, were requested by partners to be conducted ahead of intended schedule. The number of hectares of municipal waters under improved management has also exceeded the target. The team underestimated starting levels of fisheries management initiatives in the former FISH project sites and presumed that they have declined since the termination of that project in 2010. It was likewise assumed that the four new sites would have very low levels of fisheries management capabilities and interventions. Therefore, the project proposed a conservatively low target.

Table 3. Performance Indicators, Life of Project Targets, Year 3 Cumulative Targets, Project Accomplishment Total to Date, and Percentage of Accomplishment to Date.

PIRS ¹ No.	Key Result Area	Performance Indicator	LOP Target	Year 3 Target	Project Totals to date	
					Accom- plished	%
1	Result A. An average of 10% increase in fisheries biomass across the eight MKBAs.	Percentage increase in the biomass of selected fisheries in the focal areas across the 8 MKBAs relative to baseline using fisheries dependent method and MPA assessment method	10	5	NA	NA
2	Result B. A 10% increase in the number of people gaining employment or better employment from sustainable fisheries management from a baseline established at the start of the project	Percentage increase in the number of people gaining employment or better employment in the focal areas across the eight MKBAs relative to baseline using socio-economic methods	10	5	NA	NA
3	Result C. Establishment of a national capacity development program to enhance the capacities of LGUs and relevant national agencies to apply ecosystem-based approaches to fisheries management.	Number of EAFM training courses conducted (national, regional and local)	120	90	93 ²	77.5%
4		Number of persons trained in EAFM, MPA and CCA (national, regional and local) [FACTS 4.8.1-27: Number of people receiving USG supported training in natural resources management and/or biodiversity conservation]	1,800	1,350	4,518 M = 3,186 F = 1,332	251.0%
5		Number of person hours of training on EAFM, MPA, and CCA (national, regional and local) [FACTS 4.8.1-29: Number of person hours of training in natural resources management and/or biodiversity conservation supported by USG assistance]	24,000	16,800	92,166 M = 64,192 F = 27,974	384.0%
6		Number of policy studies on EAFM, MPA, and CCA (national) [FACTS 4.8.2.28: Number of laws, policies, strategies, plans, agreements, or regulations addressing climate change and/or biodiversity conservation formally proposed, adopted, or implemented as a result of USG assistance]	8	8	8	100.0%
7	Result D. Eight public-private partnerships supporting the objectives of the ECOFISH project created and operating	Number of strategic partnerships formally established and operating (cumulative)	8	6	7	87.5%
8		Number of community partnerships actively engaged and mobilized (cumulative)	100	60	97	97.0%
9	Result E. One million hectares of municipal marine waters under improved management.	Number of hectares of municipal waters under improved management (cumulative) [FACTS 4.8.1-26: Number of hectares of biological significance and/or natural resources under improved natural resource management as a result of USG assistance]	1,000,000	700,000	1,075,956	107.6%
10		Number of hectares of MPAs and network of MPAs established (cumulative) [FACTS 4.8.1-26: Number of hectares of biological significance and/or natural resources under improved natural resource management]	320	192	300	93.8%

¹ Performance Indicator Reference Sheet (refer to Appendix 1 of the ECOFISH Performance Monitoring Plan for details)

² In the conduct of an internal DQA, all trainings were subjected to evaluation using the definition provided in FACTS 4.8.1-29. Some of these trainings which were considered part of the projects' operation or either not training at all such as round table discussions and activity launching are excluded on this reporting period.

PIRS ¹ No.	Key Result Area	Performance Indicator	LOP Target	Year 3 Target	Project Totals to date	
					Accom- plished	%
		as a result of USG assistance]				
11	Result F. A core of 30 LGUs across the eight MKBAs with improved capacity for implementing ecosystem approaches to fisheries management.	Number of inter-LGU/MKBA fisheries management plans developed	8	4	4	50.0%
12		Number of LGUs that have achieved EAFM benchmark level 2 or higher (cumulative)	42	20	28	66.7%

Local governments and organizations involved in the management of the Verde Island Passage Marine Corridor (VIPMC) has tasked ECOFISH to provide the scientific and technical advise for VIP fisheries initiatives, particularly on the establishment of a “closed season” for small pelagics in the area. The team designed and implemented an action research to determine the appropriate “no take” period, develop the guidelines to set up the intervention, and provide scientific advise during its implementation. ECOFISH facilitated the conduct of a series of forums for seasonal closure for small pelagics in the VIP to report the findings of the scientific study made by the Project that narrowed down the scope and period for the closed season. This was followed by individual LGU consultations, presentation to the provincial government, information to the public on the implementation of the closed season and post-implementation forums to discuss the impact of the program. All LGUs in Balayan Bay drafted and passed ordinances to provide the enabling instrument for implementation of the closed season.

ECOFISH, through MERF, started conducting review sessions and workshops with partners to draft various sections of the SMRR with the goal of coming up with the first consolidated draft of the report. The team conducted a writeshop with partners from BFAR and LGUs and agreed on the content and outline of the report. In collaboration with NSAP, the ECOFISH team conducted trainings of data analysts of NSAP to revisit and standardize procedures for estimation of fish population parameters and status of fish stocks. These sets of information will also form part of the SMRR and intended to be updated on a regular basis.

In partnership with the Philippine Association of Crab Processors, Inc. (PACPI) and the National Fisheries Institute (NFI), the ECOFISH team started in Year 2 the implementation of the “Species Specific Assessment and Piloting of Spawning Potential Ratio Method for the Management of Blue Swimming Crab in the Danajon Reef”. The data collection was conducted from May 2014 to May 2015 to provide estimates of the spawning potential ratio of the blue crab that can ultimately be used as tool or reference point for managing the resource. The results were presented to BFAR, PACPI and LGU partners in June 2015. The partners agreed to a gear swap scheme to reduce and ultimately ban the use of gears catching immature blue crabs. The measure is currently being worked out with BFAR as contribution to its nationwide Blue Crab Management Plan.

ECOFISH provided support to partners in strengthening MPAs that have remained idle for some time and in the selection, assessment, and establishment of new MPAs. By Year 3, ECOFISH has supported the establishment of a total of 192 hectares of new MPAs and assisted in the strengthening of about 1,650 hectares of previously established MPAs. An additional total of about 350 hectares of new MPAs are still being proposed by the partners across all project sites.

They will be assessed and evaluated as to their viability and contributory role to the network of MPAs.

For the Year 3, ECOFISH completed the Inter-LGU Fisheries Management Plans for the LGU alliance of South Negros and the focal area municipalities in Surigao del Norte, Bohol municipalities of Danajon Reef, and the Calamianes Island Group. For South Negros, the alliances on the Negros Oriental and Negros Occidental sides will oversee the implementation, while in Surigao del Norte the province will take the lead in the integrated implementation of management interventions. The Coastal Law Enforcement Council (CLEC) will guide the integrated implementation of management interventions by the Bohol municipalities of Danajon Reef and the Calamianes Management Council will be reactivated to oversee the implementation of the fisheries management interventions identified and prioritized by the stakeholders of the Calamianes Island Group cluster of municipalities. The focal area of the project is just a subset of the scope of the province/MKBA. As envisioned by the project, the inter-LGU management plans will serve as guide for the implementation and development of future fisheries management interventions as either an inter-LGU initiative or individual LGU activities.

7. Initial Project Impacts

At this stage of implementation, the full impact of the project could not still be fully realized. However, recent project activities with partners at the national and MKBA levels have already shown some initial impacts. These are the visible impacts the Project has seen during this reporting period:

- The Adopt-a-MPA Project of the PNP-MG has been a big success, with PNP-MG linking with LGUs and local stakeholders to increase visibility and enforcement actions in the areas of the MPAs. ECOFISH is working with the PNP-MG to develop a monitoring and reporting system for assessing the effectiveness of the AMPA Project.
- The team is currently working for the expansion of the “700DALOY (Dedicated Alert Lines for Ocean Biodiversity)” partnership between the Philippine National Police-Maritime Group, Smart and USAID. Over 28 cases have been filed and Php 6 million worth of contraband have been seized as a result of support provided under the hotline against marine wildlife violators. The PNP-MG was also awarded the Environmental Enforcement Award by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- The policy assistance to BFAR has been very productive. For instance, FishR continues to be a banner program of BFAR. As of March 2015, FishR recorded about 1.5 million fisherfolk registrants nationwide. With the success of FishR, ECOFISH is now working with BFAR to develop a complementary registration system for boats and gears, also known as BoatR. In anticipation of BoatR, ECOFISH advised partner LGUs in the project sites to refrain from developing their independent system of boat and gear registration
- ECOFISH provided support for the revision and updating of the National Stock Assessment Program training curriculum. This has been approved and used in the training of new enumerators for the expanded NSAP activities. The ECOFISH’s fisheries resource

management team served as resource persons in the training of trainers who will in turn train their recently-hired enumerators for the expanded sites of NSAP.

- In the preparation of the State of the Marine Resources Report, an important agreement was forged between ECOFISH and NFRDI. It was agreed that the report should also highlight the exploitation ratio values and key population parameters of important fish stocks. These sets of information are regularly collected and annually estimated by BFAR-NFRDI NSAP teams country-wide. These sets of information will be able to show the overall state of exploitation of important fish stocks in the country. The exploitation ratios of important fish stocks are now part of the SMRR.
- ECOFISH has completed the collection and analysis of data in support of the proposed seasonal closure of small pelagics in Balayan Bay. ECOFISH, together with the Provincial Government Environment and Natural Resources Office (PGENRO) of Batangas facilitated the conduct of a series of forums on seasonal closure for small pelagics in the Verde Island Passage – this includes a TWG meeting to report the findings of the scientific study made by ECOFISH to narrow down the scope and period for the closed season, individual LGU consultations, and a forum formally presenting the proposal to the provincial government the December 2014 implementation.
- ECOFISH provided technical and policy support in the implementation of seasonal closure for small pelagics in Balayan Bay (*Pagpapahinga ng Look ng Balayan*), and facilitated livelihood support for the implementation of the first-ever inter-LGU enforced seasonal closure. Nine LGUs of Balayan Bay agreed to enforce the seasonal closure in December 2014, based on the scientific and policy recommendations of ECOFISH. ECOFISH initiated linkage with DSWD to implement a complementary cash-for-work program for affected fishing boat crew who temporarily stopped fishing during the closure.
- The ECOFISH fisheries management team provided scientific advise to NSAP Region 4-B in the conduct studies and development of plans for the management of roundscad fisheries in Palawan. This also included providing guidance to the technical working group in coming up with the various options for the management of roundscad fisheries in Palawan including the possible seasonal closure option.
- The Project likewise provided policy support in the drafting of the Joint Administrative Order (JAO) for the proposed closed season for roundscad in North Eastern Palawan waters.
- The data collection to provide estimates of the spawning potential ratio (SPR) of blue crab for use as reference point to manage the resource has been completed and the results were presented to BFAR, PACPI and LGU partners. The partners agreed to a gear swap scheme to reduce and ultimately ban the use of gears catching immature blue crabs to improve the SPR value. The measure is currently being worked out with BFAR as contribution to its nationwide Blue Crab Management Plan. The SPR as reference point and gear swapping as management option are now being included by National Blue Crab Management TWG among their various management interventions for the entire country.
- Siete Pecados Marine Park in the CIG was chosen as one of the 16 finalists among 153 applicants in the Galing Pook Awards 2015. ECOFISH provided technical assistance to LGU-Coron in the preparation of application documents, personnel support during site validation activities, and technical support in the preparation of presentation during panel interview. The Marine Park is one of the numerous MPAs in the country being supported by USAID ECOFISH Project. Although the marine park was not able to bag the award, this

competition brought inspiration to the Local Government Unit of Coron to further promote empowerment, innovation and sustainability of MPA program in the municipality.

- The Bulan LGU in San Bernardino Strait redesigned their Butag Bay MPA by setting up of two sanctuaries around the eastern and western sections of the reef identified by MERF to have good live coral cover. One issue that was resolved was the lack of community support because traditional fishing rights were not considered when the MPA was established in 1999. The modification was adopted by the LGU and is already reflected in their proposal for funding assistance from the Global Environmental Facility Component of the World Bank-. The team likewise helped the LGU in drafting the proposal.
- Value chain studies for all species/commodities and 8 sites of the project have been completed, and are now being shared with partners and stakeholders. Results are now being used as inputs into other project interventions. Species/commodities selected for this study include sea cucumber, blue crab, mud crab, rabbit fish, sardines, yellowfin tuna, and roundscad.
- Overall, ECOFISH implementation of its site- and national-level activities has led to high visibility and credibility of the project among organizations and stakeholders in the fisheries sector at the national, regional and site level. The project is often sought by various partners in collaborative activities in fisheries and coastal resources management efforts. This bodes well for remaining project activities and achievements of life of project objectives during the project lifespan.
- ECOFISH remains a well-respected and high profile project of USAID/Philippines. Consequently, numerous visits have been made by the US Ambassador, the USAID/Philippines Mission Director, USAID officials and staff to the project sites. These visits have contributed substantively to ECOFISH credibility and goodwill capital among partners and stakeholders and national, regional and local level.
- The Project is utilizing the results of the EAFM benchmarking exercises as guide to the delivery of the training courses targeting the needs of the municipalities in the MKBAs as indicated by their benchmark scores. This ecosystem-targeted approach can be applied to other systems even for land-based initiatives.
- The ECOFISH supported TV White Space partnership between DOST-ICTO, Microsoft, BFAR and Province of Bohol was chosen as one of the finalist for the P3 Impact Award, a joint effort of Concordia, the State Department, and the University of Virginia's Darden School of Business. The winner is to be announced during the Concordia Summit in New York on 02 October 2015.
- ECOFISH co-organized a roundtable discussion with PEMSEA entitled "Mobilizing Industry Champions towards a Blue Economy". Over 30 participants from ECOFISH private partners participated to identify pathways towards deeper engagement in the coastal and marine sectors through PEMSEA's Sustainable Business Network—a Network partially set-up with ECOFISH to facilitate the handing over of ECOFISH strategic partnerships beyond the project's lifetime.